



Lilac Lines – July 2026

115 S Pekin Rd | PO Box 828 | Woodland, WA 98674
www.lilacgardens.com

A note from our President Judy Card...

On behalf of the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden Society Board, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who volunteered during Lilac Days, April 18–May 10, 2026. Board members and our Executive Director are highlighted in bold.

This year's celebration was truly remarkable. More than 13,000 visitors toured the gardens during Lilac Days, and over 100 volunteers generously gave their time and talents from the first setup day through the final afternoon. We believe both are record highs!

Every successful Lilac Days celebration is made possible by the dedication of our volunteers. Whether you spent months weeding, helped unload plants, welcomed visitors at the gate, staffed the museum or gift shop, sold plants, played music, or supported us in countless other ways, your contributions helped create a memorable experience for thousands of guests.

We have done our best to recognize everyone below and ask your forgiveness if we have inadvertently missed someone.

Please join us for our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Tuesday, July 28, at 6:00 p.m. We hope to celebrate with all of you!

Weeders - (some year-round) **Pam Jordan, Lori Comstock**, Patti Allen, **Jon Atkinson**, Josie Banks, **Lisa Bigelow**, Gabrielle Brockett, Vicki Caldwell Kraft, Kay Cannon, Breoni Coalman, Janine Demich, Kristy Hagen, Rose Johnson, Stina Lazaroti, Roxanne Nakamura, Mike Reed, Cathy Seifert, Kelly Thompson, Carmila Vivian, Sid and Amber Vodnala, Nicholas Wendland, Evelyn Taylor, Jeff Johnson, Monica Fogerty, Tracy Clark, David Clark, Angelina Bazante, Kim Miller and Ariana Vega

Work Party and Plant Unloading - Jenny and David Dick, Monica Fogerty, Jenna Gunnels, Mark Moir, Dennis Ripp, **Mari Ripp**, Gary Ripp, Terry Grendahl, Jon Drury, Erin Thoeny, Jessica Sahim and Kaleena, Tracy Clark, David Clark, Stina Lazaroti, Mike Reed, **Lisa Bigelow**, Deb Tito, **Jon Atkinson, Pam Jordan**, Kady Wilson, Bill Kallman, Kevin Waisanen, Owen Harper and the LDS Missionaries

Gate- Diane Earnest, John Earnest, Marilyn Van Horn, Kathy Rohrer, Janella Mader Mark, Debbie Elliott, Debbie Rogers, Mary Lou Hayward, Mary Boger, Martha Ketchum, April Heasley and Jan Demich

House- **Pam Jordan, Jon Atkinson**, Debbie Rogers, Nancy White, Judith Peterson, Margo Sanders, Brione Coalman, Mary Jane Bartlett, Le Clair Hopper, Christine Dean and **Judy Card**

Museum- **Lisa Bigelow**, Randy Abrams, Pete Hazard, Mary Boger, Bonnie Johnson, Mary Jo Keller, Linette Finstad, Sharron Looney, Jon Drury, **Judy Card**, Nancy White, Ingrid Smith, Billie Marxmiller, Monica Loomis, **Mari Ripp**, Jan Demich, Erin Thoeny, Linda Tracy and the LaCenter Royalty girls, Lesa Beucher and the Woodland Planter Day Princesses, The Key Club students from Woodland High School.

Gift Shop- Debbie Rogers, **Lisa Bigelow**, Deb Tito, Bonnie Johnson, Sandra Driggers, Josie Banks, Martha Bolen, Sharon Ferguson, **Mari Ripp**, Denise Payne, Mary Boger and Carol Moore

House Pianists- Barbara Harlan, Cyrilla Gleason, Martha Natiuk, Margo Sanders, Susan Erich, Dianne Earnest, Bev Drury and Ruth Gohl.

Cashier Booth & Deposits- **Lori Cash, Judy Kroon**, Carol Owens, Gabby Sprenger, Deb Tito, **Lori Comstock**, Billie Marxmiller, **Ingrid Smith**, Ruth Wendt

Plant Sales- **Lori Comstock**, Matthew Comstock, Cathy Seifert, Mike Reed, **Jon Atkinson, Lisa Bigelow**, Evelyn Taylor, Jeff Johnson, Gudrun Mahrt, Stina Lazaroti, David Clark, Julie Buck, Jessica Sahim, Roxanne Nakamura, Josie Banks, Nathan and Mariann Thomas, Martha Bolen, Patti Wise, Laurretta Johnston, Andrea Edwards and **Mari Ripp**

Other- Rich Trygar and Boy Scout Troop 531, Goni Laseke, Aiden Harper, YMF Coffee, Hummingbird Confectionery, Military Vehicles—Dennis Ripp, Mark Moir, Steve Flinn, and Jenna Gunnels

Outside Musicians- Richie Bean, Wil Veale, Yuriy & Calvary Chapel Church group, Fargher Lake Boys, Brad Dutz, Brandy Lyn Ross, Christ Foster, John Buck and the Old Timers, Clay Dye, Darrell Sanders, Dove Creek Band, Kathryn Van Bebber, NW Harmony Chorus, Hollywood Ukelele Group



Thank you, one and all, for making the 2026 Lilac Days celebration such a tremendous success. Your generosity, enthusiasm, and countless hours of service continue Hulda Klager's legacy and make these gardens a special place for our community and visitors from around the world.

We invite you to join us for our monthly Society meetings, held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in Hulda's house. Programs and refreshments are provided, and we would love to have you become involved in future projects and events. For more information about upcoming activities, please visit lilacgardens.com.

For the love of lilacs and history,
Judy Card, President 2026

2026 HKLG Board Members

Judy Card – President; Membership, Museum, House and History

Jon Atkinson – Maintenance and Grounds and all-around helper

Lisa Bigelow – Gift Shop and Plants

Lori Comstock – Secretary; Garden and Plants

Lori Cash – Treasurer and Newsletter

Pam Jordan – Weeders and House

Judy Kroon – Assistant Treasurer; Cash Booths and all-around helper

Ingrid Smith – Museum and general helper

Mari Ripp, Executive Director - Assists in all areas of the Society

LILAC DAYS 2026 & Plant Sale – The Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens hosted Lilac Days April 18th through May 10th, 2026 which ran 23 days up to Mother's Day and Hulda's birthday celebration! It was also America 250th so we had other specialty events during Lilac Days. The event was made possible through our volunteers and members who gave their time and talents. The event brought in 13,548 tourists which was an increase of 920 from 2025.

We had Specialty Days that included the Planters Days Royal Court and the La Center Royal Court, Military Day and a Military vehicle display organized by Dennis Ripp and friends. We celebrated America 250 and the Hulda Klager Lilac Society 50th Anniversary on Saturday, May 2nd and Boy Scout Troop 531 performed a flag ceremony with Rich Trygar, Scout Leader, who gave a great speech.

We hosted many volunteer musicians such as Fargher Lake Boys, Yuriy & Calvary Chapel Church, Brad Dutz, Brandy Lyn Ross, Chris Foster, John Buck & the Old Timers, Richie Bean, Darrell Sanders, The Dove Creek Band, John Buck and Clay Dye, Katerine Van Bebber, Wil Veale and HUG Ukelele Group. They all had great music, and the Lilac Days guests all loved their performances.

The House was open for tours with a shift from 1pm to 4 pm daily, covered by 2 hosts every day, plus piano players. The reproduction of Hulda's Anniversary dress was on display and a new drawing of the parlor stove. The house was decorated in the America 250 red/white/blue theme.

The museum was also open daily and also staffed by 2 shifts daily. There were lots of visitors and they all enjoyed the exhibits as well as the patriotic quilts from various quilters that were on display. The raffle quilt tickets were also sold during Lilac Days in the museum and 3,000 were sold!

The gift shop had a great year as well. Sales increased from the prior year and all the beautiful handmade items that were made by the Firehouse Quilters, Janet Boon aprons, and Sherry Peterson's embroidered tea towels, as well as all the other items that included soaps, lotions, garden items, garden wands (a huge hit), logo umbrellas, HKLG logo T-shirts, jewelry and more were all available for purchase. We also brought in cedar planters which were a huge hit as well.

Plant sales were robust and HKLG offered over 7,000 plants for sale this year with 51 different varieties in tissue culture size in 1 gallon, 2 gallon and 5-gallon sizes. New this year was information using QR Codes on signs taking shoppers to our website LilacGardens.com for detailed plant descriptions. A special thank you to Lori Comstock, Michael Reed and Matthew Farnell for bringing this project to completion. We are already planning for the next year in 2027, so hope you join us again April 17th to May 9th!



Membership & Volunteer Annual picnic - July 28th

You're invited to the HKLG Membership & Volunteer Annual picnic on Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00 p.m. at Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens 115 S. Pekin Rd., Woodland, WA.

HKLG will provide main dish/meat, dessert and drinks. Please bring a side dish to share.

Please RSVP with # attending to jcard20983@aol.com



Hometown Summer Market & Open Days

If you haven't heard, the Lilac Gardens is hosting and co-hosting some upcoming events for 2026! We're excited to bring the Hometown Summer Market and Open Days on July 25, 2026. It's FREE admission and HKLG will have the historic Klager farmhouse and museum open all day for tours. The gardens have lots blooming for the summer, so you'll definitely want to visit and see the summer blooms, especially the roses and dahlias.

The Woodland Senior Enrichment Group is bringing in vendors with food, entertainment, artisans and crafters. We're bringing in new quilts and historic displays in the house and museum. The gift shop and lilac plant sale will also be open for shoppers! You can shop for unique items and also purchase a few plants to add to your gardens!

Please contact jcard20983@gmail.com if you're available to volunteer to work during the event and we'll get you added to the volunteer schedule.

Open Days 2026 - The best way to learn about gardening, garden design, and the transformative power of gardens is to experience gardens in person. Since 1995, more than 4,000 private gardens have participated in Garden Conservancy's signature Open Days program, welcoming more than 1.4 million visitors in states across the country. They also offer Digging Deeper and Garden Masters Series educational programs in conjunction with garden visiting through the Open Days. gardenconservancy.org. So you'll also want to save time to visit HKLG Open Days Partner Gardens. These local gardens will only be open to the public on July 25th 10am to 4pm.

- Amie Lutzenberger Flower Garden, Woodland, WA
- M3 Ranch & Garden, Gudrun & Peter Mahrt, La Center, WA Tickets to the partner gardens are available at the QR code here

OPEN DAYS LOCAL GARDENS:
Tickets at:
[The Garden Conservancy](http://TheGardenConservancy.org)





2nd Annual Woodland Hometown Market and Open Days

Saturday, July 25th, 10am - 4pm

Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens

115 S. Pekin Rd, Woodland WA

Enjoy food, entertainment, and a variety of talented vendors as you stroll through the Beautiful historic gardens.

Visit the Klager farmhouse & museum

Also visit Open Days Partner Gardens:
Amie Lutzenberger flower garden. Woodland, WA
M3 Ranch & Garden • Peter & Gudrun Mahrt, La Center, WA
*Tickets to partner gardens required

www.woodlandseniors.org • www.lilacgardens.com





Woodland
Senior Enrichment Group



Seeking Apple pie bakers!

Open to All Ages

Contest

*Complete rules at LilacGardens.com



Prizes



Please enter by contacting Mari Ripp at hklgexecutivedirector@gmail.com or call 360-225-8996 (message) to give your name, phone and how many pies,

Homemade Pie Contest Rules*

a) This contest is open to bakers of all ages!
b) Apple Pies must be entered in the name of the person who made it.
c) Contestant may enter up to three (3) pies. Flavors must be Apple, or an Apple variation. Each entry must have two (2) of each pie (one to judge/one to auction).

Apple Pie Contest

Do you make the BEST apple pie ?

We're celebrating America's 250th birthday and HKLG 50th Anniversary!

What's more American than apple pie?

Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens is looking for pie bakers to put their skills to the test!

We are hosting a pie baking contest on the 19th of September &

We want YOU! !

The ask is simple: make the award winning apple pie to win the blue ribbon prize (and a gift basket, plus bragging rights) !

We're looking for non-professional bakers please.

If you think you make the best apple pie, let's talk.

Email hklgexecutivedirector@gmail.com to sign up!

Pies will be judged by a panel of judges at the America 250 Fall Fest on September 19th.

HKLG America 250 Fall Fest 2026 Saturday September 19th, 11-6pm at Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens

This event is in honor of **America 250**

&

Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens

HKLG Lilac Society 50th Anniversary

Free admission

Vendors, Entertainment, Family friendly, Face painting, games

House open for tours; Visit the museum and gardens.

Interested in being a vendor?

Visit LilacGardens.com for vendor application and more information.

Chili Cook-off

Do you make the best chili?

Do you like sharing the best chili with others and make them happy? If you answered "yes", enter and bring a pot of your "homemade chili" to: the America 250 Fall Fest and Chili Cookoff on

Saturday, September 19, 2026.

Prizes will be awarded too!

To enter, just provide the contestants name and contact information to hklgexecutivedirector@gmail.com.

Enter the America 250 Fall Fest

Chili Cook-off

Saturday, September 19th - 11am-1pm
At Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, 115 S. Pekin Rd, Woodland WA

Do you make the most delicious chili?
Do you like making others happy by cooking and sharing with them the best chili?
If you answered, "yes" to the above questions, please bring a pot of your "homemade" chili!

Entries will be judged and prizes awarded!

Contestants- Submit your contact info to Mari at hklgexecutivedirector@gmail.com

Chili Cookoff details:

- Electrical outlets will not be provided
- A separate table will be provided for the chili judging competition
- If your special recipe requires condiments, bring them
- Bring your own dinnerware to present the chili to the judges
- The competition will begin at 11am with judging at 12:30pm

CHILI cook off

Festival is 11am-6pm

AMERICANA 250 FALL FEST
September 19th 11am -6pm
At Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, 115 S. Pekin Rd

The Lilac Lady: Hulda Klager's Legacy *(condensed from an article written by Michael Ko, Seattle Times staff reporter, from May 9, 2002)*

Hulda Klager (1863–1960) transformed a small farm in Woodland into one of the most important lilac gardens in North America. Born Hulda Thiel in Germany, she came west in a covered wagon, married dairy farmer Frank Klager at age 16, and raised four children.

Her horticultural career began unexpectedly around age 40 while recovering from illness. Inspired by Luther Burbank's book *New Creations in Plant Life*, she first experimented with hybridizing apples before turning her attention to lilacs.

In 1905, she imported seven rare lilac varieties from France and began painstaking hand-pollinating blossoms using a crochet hook and paintbrush. She covered the flowers with paper bags to prevent bees from contaminating the crosses. She accepted that only about one seedling in 500 would be worth keeping, discarding the rest.

By 1910 she had developed 14 new lilac varieties. Eventually she introduced more than 100 new strains and, at one point, had created 64 of the approximately 250 lilac varieties recognized by the International Lilac Society. She named many cultivars after family, friends, and nearby communities, affectionately referring to her lilacs as her

"pets."

As visitors flocked to see her blooms, she began opening her gardens to the public during lilac season in the 1920s, establishing a tradition that continues today, with thousands of visitors attending, each year, three weeks prior to and including Mother's Day.

Her work earned national recognition. The *Oregonian* praised her collection as one of the finest in the country. She received awards from the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs (1947) and the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs (1958), and her lilacs were planted at the Washington State Capitol and in arboretums across the United States.

In 1948, at age 83, catastrophic flooding from the Columbia and Lewis Rivers destroyed nearly every lilac she had spent more than four decades developing. Refusing to surrender, Hulda accepted cuttings and plants from friends, family, and admirers from around the country. Within two years, she had rebuilt the gardens and continued tending them—often from a wheelchair—until the day she died in 1960 at the age of 96.

After her death, the gardens entered a difficult period. A local garden club and members of her family tried to care for the property, but a fire gutted the Klager home, the gardens fell into neglect, and many of the lilacs were lost. Eventually, a developer purchased the land with plans to replace it with an industrial complex. For sixteen years, Hulda's life's work hung in the balance.

In 1976, a dedicated group of volunteers formed the Hulda Klager Lilac Society. Through pancake breakfasts, fundraisers, donations, grants, and countless volunteer hours, they purchased the property, swapped land with the developer to save the site, restored the Victorian home, replanted the gardens, and revived Hulda's beloved annual Lilac Festival. Their efforts also led to the gardens being recognized as a National Historic Site.

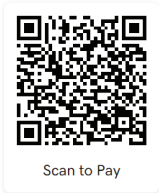
Today, the 4.5-acre estate preserves Hulda Klager's home, original grounds, and more than 120 varieties of lilacs, including many of her original hybrids. Yet the Society continues to face challenges. Much of the work is still done by senior-age volunteers, and one of its ongoing goals is to establish an endowment that will provide funding for a full-time gardener, ensuring that Hulda's extraordinary legacy continues to bloom for generations to come.

Hulda Klager's story is ultimately one of perseverance—not only her own, but also that of the many volunteers who refused to let her life's work disappear. Through determination spanning more than a century, they have preserved one of America's most remarkable horticultural treasures.



Hulda Klager

Membership Application \$15 Annually January - December 2026



Hulda Klager Lilac Society
Attn: Judy Card, Membership Chair
PO Box 828
Woodland, WA 98674

Date: _____
Card Given: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Are you interested in volunteering: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Where are you interested in volunteering? ☐ House ☐ Gate ☐ Garden

☐ Plant Sales ☐ Museum ☐ Gift Shop

Other _____

Email Address: _____

Email Address for meeting notifications and newsletter mailings. We do not share your information

Please notify me at jcard20983@aol.com for any address updates

A note about our Membership: Your current year \$15 membership card allows your entry into the Gardens from January through December.

Thank you to all of you who chose to support the Gardens with your membership. Please notify me of any changes of email address or mailing addresses.

Thank you, Judy Card, Membership Chair