



Lilac Lines - February 2025

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

A Note from the 2025 Lilac Garden President



Many of you will recognize my name as I have been Membership Chair since 2005; published the HKLG Newsletter; member of the House Committee and the Lilac Garden Historian as well as securing volunteers to volunteer at the Gate and House during Lilac Days and with the addition of the Museum last year, that too.

It takes a "community" to maintain and run the Lilac Gardens, gardeners of all kinds (weeders, mowers, designers, etc.) year-round and persons interested in maintaining the house and the mission of the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens which is "to preserve the Pioneer Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens and premises in Cowlitz County, Washington, as a unique historic, architectural and horticultural site and landscape for the literary, scientific, educational and cultural benefit of the public". Volunteering to bring treats or be a speaker at one of our monthly meetings is also a great way to support and "tour the house".

I have the pleasure this year of getting to know our new Board members Lori Cash, Lisa Bigalow, Pam Jordan, Jon Atkinson along with continuing Board members Lori Comstock, Judy Kroon, Stina Lazaroti, Louise Moir, Fran and Kirk Northcut and Ingrid Smith.

Three years ago, we hired Mari Ripp as Executive Director, and I have enjoyed working with her and her organizational skills and willingness to learn what the HKLG Society is all about.

We thank you for your support of the Lilac Gardens and hope to see you at one of our General Meetings the fourth Tuesday of most months or filling one of the many needed shifts during Lilac Days.

For the love of lilacs and history,
Judy Bushman Card

Lilac Days 2025

April 19 through Mother's Day May 11

*Lilac Plant Sales | Gift Shop | Quilt Raffle
Barn/Museum | Self-Guided Garden Tour
Historic Klager Farmhouse*

10 am - 4 pm daily

\$10 gate fee (children 12 & under free)

Every Monday - \$5 Senior Day (age 62+)

Make sure and mark your calendars for Lilac Days 2025!

Saturday, April 19th – Sunday, May 11th.

We have many things planned this year. And if you hadn't heard, it is the **50th anniversary** of the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens Historical site and the Lilac Society.

The THEME is "Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens Golden Jubilee" which was chosen by the Board, as submitted by Gabby Sprenger. We have chosen the yellow primrose lilac to commemorate the celebration and will have it for sale at Lilac Days Plant Sale!

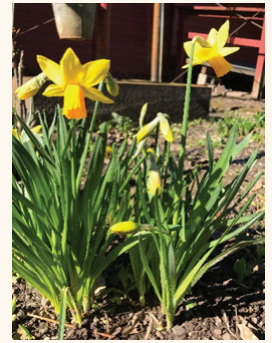
Come buy some 2025 Anniversary memorabilia.



HKLG Executive Director Report

by Mari Ripp, Executive Director

Hello again! It was a busy 2024 and we're smack dab in the beginning of 2025 with signs of spring showing! We had a great 2024 Klager Christmas event and the house, barn/museum and grounds looked magnificent in all the lights and with all the Christmas trees and décor. Santa was especially terrific too. The Membership Christmas party had good food & everyone had fun! If you weren't able to come to Klager Christmas, don't worry, as we're going to bring it back again December 2025!



GARDEN & MAINTENANCE - There has been a very large project in the gardens that began in summer 2024. The old irrigation system had many, many leaks and was very aged. There's been a major overhaul of replacing pipes and sprinklers in the formal gardens and also in some other areas. A special thanks goes out to Dwight Dahl, our Maintenance man, who did most all of the irrigation work. This was followed by new weed cloth and now new compost in the formal gardens, new gravel on pathways and more. It's been a project that's taken months to complete. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Garden Conservancy and some other generous donations that helped with some of the expenses. Kudo's to ALL our garden staff for doing this very labor intensive project. It is continuing but we will have it finished for Lilac Days 2025.

Shown here is the compost pile that is disbursed in the beds, the install of the weed cloth, the partially completed beds, and also some of the new gravel in some of the areas.





Lilac Days Specialty Days Schedule

(*subject to change, so watch for updates)

Saturday, April 19th - Opening day; Music-Fargher Lake Boys

Sunday, April 20th - Easter

Monday, April 20th - Easter Monday and Senior day (\$5 – adults 62 & older)

Saturday, April 26th - Music-Sacred Harp

Sunday, April 27th - Royalty Day: Planters Days princesses 10am-2pm

Monday, April 28th - Senior Day (\$5 – adults 62 & older)

Wednesday, April 30th - Military Day

Saturday, May 3rd - **50th Anniversary celebration of HKLG!!** Music-HUG Hollywood Ukulele Group

Monday, May 5th - Senior Day (\$5 – adults 62 & older)

Saturday, May 10th - Hulda's birthday and cupcakes; Music-Madrigal Singers ;

Sunday, May 11th - Mother's Day

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for all areas of the Lilac Gardens!

We have openings for three-hour shifts,
10-1pm & 1-4pm from April 19th to May 11th

Greetings Volunteers, it is that time of year again when we are calling (or you can call or text us) to sign up to volunteer at the Front Gate booth, House greeter, Museum greeter/raffle sales, Plant Sales, or Gift Shop. Lilac Days is April 19th - May 11th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will again be doing the three-hour shifts, but you are welcome to spend full six hours and multiple days if you so choose.

Judy Card is scheduling for Gate, House greeters, Museum/Raffle sales.

Mari Ripp is scheduling for the Plant Sales area and Gift Shop.

Judy Card, Membership Chr. 360-901-8633 or jcard20983@aol.com

Mari Ripp, Executive Director 360-608-0367 or hklgexecutivedirector@gmail.com

Lilac Quilt Raffle 2025

Make sure to buy some tickets for a chance to win the raffle quilt. The Woodland Firehouse Quilt group made "Open Option" and quilted by Debra Ross. This beautiful quilt is 71" x 89" in size in lovely lilac prints, lilac and purple solids.

Tickets will be \$1 each and can be purchased at

Lilac Days in the museum or by contacting

Mari Ripp hklgexecutivedirector@gmail.com

Drawing will be at the annual picnic

July 22nd at the garden.





Hulda Klager
Lilac Gardens

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE for July, 1927

Lilac-Time Brings Crowds of Cars to Mrs. Klager's Garden

IF YOU should go through the little town of Woodland, Washington, in the springtime, and draw up at a large old-fashioned white house with a green roof, you would see cars parked there with license plates from many parts of the United States. Their owners have come to see the sixty exquisite varieties of lilacs which Mrs. Hulda Klager has originated.

And if you went up the path in the midst of spacious lawns and well-laid-out flower beds, you would find the mistress of the place enthusiastically pointing out first this heavily laden lilac, then that one, to a delighted crowd, while Nippy, her dog, circles 'round and 'round the visitors, eager to join in the fun. Tall and well built, with a sturdy frame, black hair which belies her years—she is well past middle age—and dark eyes with a glint of humor and mellow understanding, she would receive you with just as much interest in you as you have in her and her lilacs.

"Lilacs are my particular pets," she told me, "although I've experimented with apples and dahlias and roses as well. It all started with a book, 'New Creations in Plant Life,' by Harwood, an account of the work and methods of Luther Burbank, which a friend brought to me one day when I was sick. After I had read that book, I could hardly wait to get up and try some of the experiments described there."

At that time, Mrs. Klager was a busy housewife on a dairy farm, with four children to care for, and bushels of fruit and vegetables to can and preserve. She was an active member of the grange and the church, too. But, in spite of all these duties, she found time to work with her flowers.

"I've always loved lilacs, so I had lots of them to start experimenting with. I had three fine specimens of Lemoine's, the great French plant breeder. One was a double white, another a double blue, and the third, a red purple, besides dozens of the Persian variety, of all colors. The book told about transferring the pollen of

one variety to the stigma of another, in order to get seed of an entirely new kind. So I got a magnifying glass, and looked at the pistils of the blossoms, to see if they were ready for the pollen, and to make

to go outdoors. It was between three and four years before I had blossoms, and could actually see what results I had obtained."

Mrs. Klager laughed reminiscently. "Some of them were terrible—dirty-colored blossoms, and weak and spindling plants. But one out of the lot made up for all the rest. For that was the one I call 'My Favorite,' a dark red outside, lighter inside, with petals incurving and coming out in handsome red buds.

"There were fourteen of this first lot that I saved as a basis for future interpollination. I realized then that I wanted most to get shrubs with large blossom clusters, and that the color I wanted was a deep, rich red. So I kept on selecting the ones, each year, which showed these tendencies most strikingly, and unless there was something exceptional about the others, I threw them over the fence."

Sometimes, according to Mrs. Klager, a lilac would have an exquisite color, but small blossoms or an unhealthy root system. Then she would try crossing the beautifully colored one with a shrub of more rugged habits.

Just now Mrs. Klager is working to get a true yellow lilac. Then, too, she wants to get lilacs with twelve petals to the blossom.

The people who come to Mrs. Klager's are a constant source of enjoyment to her. "Yesterday a car with an undertaker, a chief of police, an artist, and a banker drove in," she said. "Weren't they strange car-fellows? But they had in common a love for lilacs."

Mrs. Klager has sold some lilacs to nurserymen in Portland and Seattle, but most of them she sells, herself, to the people who come to her home for them.

"It's no fun for me to raise them in quantities and ship them off to town. But it is fun to have people come here for them, so that I can see just who are getting them. You see," she explained, "I do all the work, so why shouldn't I have all the fun I can get from my garden?"

RUTH GRAHAM CASE



One day, Mrs. Hulda Klager, of Woodland, Washington, read a book about Luther Burbank. Though she was a busy housewife on a dairy farm, she found time to apply his methods to her favorite lilacs, and she has produced sixty new varieties

sure that some industrious bee had not already carried some pollen there. Then I used a small paint brush to dust on the pollen from the blossom I had chosen, and I tied a paper bag over the fertilized blossom to protect it until the seed had been formed.

"I tried hundreds of different combinations that first year, using the three Lemoine lilacs as the parent stock for all of them. I planted the seed I got from these unions, and tended them carefully under glass until they were large enough

This article from The American Magazine, July 1927 – story about an early Lilac Days!

WHAT'S NEW AND COMING UP?

Archiving Records

Are you a history buff or have skills in organization? We can use your help! After Lilac Days we are going to begin a HUGE Archiving Project to continue working on the preservation of all the history of the gardens, including photographs, news articles, general records and more. We will be working upstairs at the history museum/barn in what will be a newly converted Archiving room as we work through organizing, filing, scanning and preserving the records in archival safe boxes, files, etc. Contact Mari Ripp or Judy Card if you'd like to be contacted to help. It can be a few hours, or any amount of time you can spare. If you'd like to be a coordinator, we looking for that person too!

Mari Ripp, Executive Director 360-608-0367 or
hklgexecutivedirector@gmail.com

Judy Card, Membership Chr. 360-901-8633 or
jcard20983@aol.com

Adopt a Plot and Weekly Weeders

Do you love to garden and want to help at the Lilac Gardens? We are looking for "Weekly Weeders" (which can be weeding, pruning, and all the likes) to come and "adopt a plot" or just be a floater in various areas of the garden. We have a new coordinator, Pam Jordan and she'd love to add you to the list to come down and help with garden chores. We are flexible with days and times, so let us know.

Pam Jordan 360-601-7138 or Psa_Jordan@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

The Woodland Senior Enrichment Group is planning on "Art in the Garden" on Saturday, July 12, 2025. They will be seeking vendors and artists to show and sell their wares. They will be advertising the event, so watch for it.

We will also be opening the Klager farmhouse and the museum that day too. We will be charging visitors \$5.00 at the door as a way to raise money for the house maintenance and expenses.

If you'd like to volunteer to be a greeter that day in the house or museum, please let Mari or Judy C. know.

2026 Garden Conservancy – Open Days and Digging Deeper

We will be partnering with the Garden Conservancy to host "Open Days" and "Digging Deeper" events in 2026. Dates are to be set soon. We will have the Open Days during Lilac Days 2026 and invite attendees from near and far to a special day. Digging Deeper will be a date in summer of 2026 and the gardens will be open again for tours and more. So stay tuned for more information to follow!

In Closing

We hope you'll join our volunteers in 2025 with your time, skills and experience. We'll be calling and emailing you again with updates and news. We'd love to hear from you!

See you in the Garden for the Love of Lilacs!

~Mari Ripp, Executive Director



Tea in the Garden

We held a tea in October 2024 and it was a success! We will be planning more teas to be held at Lilac Gardens in the house and outside. Are you interested in being on the planning committee or being a host/hostess? Contact Mari Ripp and we will get some dates set.



MEMBERSHIP

Please make sure to renew your 2025 membership. Benefits: Member benefits include year-around free admission to the Gardens, invitations to member/volunteer events, our Gardens newsletter, and a warm feeling that comes from support of the continuation of the Gardens for future generations.

The monthly Membership meetings are on the 4th Tuesday at 1pm at the Klager farmhouse.

Recent speakers hosted and topics given were "Herbalism and Soil Blocking" by Josie Banks; "Plant ID & Apps" presented by Jennifer Mendoza and Matt Conrad, Master Gardener/Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Dept.;

Coming up will be Mariah Reese, Lelooska Foundation; Erin Thoeny, Woodland Historical Museum showing the Leon Stroud slide and photo collection; and Joseph Govednik, Cowlitz Historical Museum speaking on museums and botanical gardens.

Please submit your completed application with \$15 dues and mail to HKLG, PO Box 828, Woodland, WA 98674

Membership Application \$15 Annually January - December 2025

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