



It's that time of year again when the Garden Clubs in the Florida Federation come to the end of their program year. The Floral City Garden Club is no exception and annually the club closes the year with a membership luncheon.

This year the luncheon will be held May 13 at the Inverness Golf and Country Club off Old Floral City Road and the public is invited; call Mary Graff at 586-453-3883.

Members and guests will gather at 11:30 a.m. for a social period and be seated for lunch at noon. President Carol Wood will be recognizing members for their outstanding contributions to the mission of the organization and sharing plans for the summer when the Club is not officially meeting.

Program Chair Janie Stewart has shared some of those plans.

"We are planning to continue to get together this summer by meeting for lunch at local restaurants and discussing what programs and field trips we can offer to the members and community for the coming year," she said. "In addition, we will be coming together to continue maintaining our community landscaped areas such as the Flowers & Fountain Corner, the Trailside Butterfly Garden and the Memorial Garden as well as other smaller sites. Also, during the summer, we will have a roadside cleanup to keep the village looking its best."

A roadside cleanup was recently conducted in mid-April and a crew of members revamped the Trailside Butterfly Garden in the afternoon. Downtown Floral City is the halfway point on the Withlacoochee State Trail, so the club is dedicated to keeping the "Floral" in Floral City for all those who enjoy the beautiful Trail.

In the late 1990s when the Floral City Heritage Council designed and constructed the Gazebo across Orange Avenue from the Trailside Garden, the Floral City Garden Club recommended the native plants for the site and planted all of the trees and shrubs one sees there today.

A good time to visit the Gazebo Site, the Trailside Butterfly Garden and the Community Memorial Garden in the Town Center would be between 12:45 and 3 p.m. Monday, May 30, when the Lion's Club will sponsor a cook-out and band at the Town Center following the Herbert Surber Post 225.

American Legion's 45th Annual Memorial Day Service at the Hills of Rest Cemetery will be at 11 a.m. that day.

Members and those wishing to join the club are reminded that dues are due at the May Luncheon for the Florida Federation of Garden Club's deadline of June 1. Checks to the Floral City Garden Club Inc. may be given to Treasurer Mary Graff.

President Carol Wood welcomes inquiries and encourages interested residents to give her a call about the programs and activities of the Floral City Garden Club. She can be reached at 813-235-3917, and the club's website at www.floralcitygardsenclub.com presents informative "Horticulture Hints" by Horticulture Chair Kathy Lingusky and extensive information about the club and activities.

The club's regular meetings – held on the second Friday, September through May – in the Community House in the Town Center, are free of charge and open to the public.

Marcia Beasley does publicity for the Floral City Garden Club.