

~~~~~ 2009 Upcoming Events ~~~~~

May 2-3 – Polk County Master Gardeners Plant Sale, 8 AM – 4:30 PM, Saturday & 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM, Sunday; Des Moines Botanical Center; featuring a wide variety of annuals and vegetables – several varieties of hybrid and heirloom tomatoes; herbs, ground covers, and beautiful Lisianthus! Buck roses will also be available.

May 9 - Mahaska County Master Gardeners Plant Sale, 8 AM – Noon, Mahaska County Extension Office, 212 North I Street, Oskaloosa, IA; Featuring: Perennials, Annuals (flowers & vegetable) including heirloom tomatoes and second time around gardening books, cookbooks & periodicals Proceeds will be used for future speaker fees and events.

May 9 – Black Hawk Green Scene 33rd Annual Plant Sale, 9 AM – Noon, Agriculture Building, Cattle Congress Grounds, 257 Ansborough Ave, Waterloo, IA; Free admission. For more information, call 319-277-2729.

May 30 – Polk County’s One Day Bus Trip; highlights include a visit to Dave Bird's orchid collection which consists of over 4,000 plants happily growing in a 6,000 square foot cave. Mary Beth Day, the *Head Flower* of the Bus Trip Committee, has invited everyone from the Marion County area to come along! The group views the Bus Trips as ‘educating’ as opposed to ‘fund raising’ so they make the trips affordable. Go to www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/news/ for all the details.

June 6 – Polk County’s Master Gardeners Garden Garage & Bake Sale, 8 AM – 2:30 PM, SE corner of 1st St & Delaware, Ankeny; plenty of garden stuff (e.g., used garden equipment, unique and no-so-unique plants, garden art) and baked goodies!

August 1-2 – Polk County’s Two Day Bus Trip; travel to northeast Iowa to visit Seed Savers Exchange (an organization dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom seeds), Willowglen Perennial Nursery (including their display gardens), and Ion Exchange, Inc. (a native seed and plant nursery). See the May 30th Bus Trip for Polk County’s approach to pricing and planning.