



Happy June!

I have just returned from Portland, Oregon and the [CCMA Conference](#). Over 200 food cooperative leaders got together to share information, support each other, and celebrate our achievements. We are not alone in our struggles with increased competition and a rapidly changing retail landscape although there are still many cooperatives that are thriving. [PCC Community Market](#) in Seattle now has 11 locations and plans to open 5 more in the next 5 years! Other co-ops have put their expansions on hold as they deal with new competition and other challenges.

Those who are familiar with Bloomingfoods expressed their love, concern, and hope for us. Several co-ops told stories of their tough times. More than one said they had to put member loans on hold for repayment. One said they told their members the money was gone but then four years later were able to repay the loans with interest. Hearing their stories – and more importantly hearing their offers to help a fellow co-op – was incredibly uplifting.

What is the future? One strong theme at the conference was that co-ops are all about people. Other retailers may be looking at how to provide products faster, cheaper, and with as little human interaction as possible but we know that humans are social by nature and that there is a huge benefit in positive personal connections. The challenge is to do it well and to ultimately ask ourselves “How does our co-op bring joy to people’s lives?”

Many of you have told me how important the co-op is to you and have expressed the joy that you receive from interacting with your favorite cashier or finding that perfectly ripe fair trade organic avocado or simply knowing that the money you spend stays in the community. We need to focus on maximizing those joyful experiences – and eliminating the disappointments. As part of our efforts, we must look at how to invest in and empower our staff so that they can provide exceptional customer service while feeling joyful about their work.

One other benefit of attending conferences is that there are a number of giveaways and door prizes. I am pleased to report that we won a drawing for \$1,000 in free services from CDS Consulting Co-op. This co-op of consultants offers a wide variety of services from staff surveys to rebranding to store expansion to improving governance. I look forward to working with the board and GM team to spend it wisely.

Most of all, the conference reminded me to make room for joy and fun, even when times are tough. Visits from baby goats were a welcome source of joy, so look for them to return to the stores soon, as well as a number of other fun events this summer. If you have an idea for how to bring joy, please don't hesitate to share. Thank you again for your continued support and encouragement!

Maggie Sullivan, Board President



Thank You!



THANK YOU to all who voted for Bloomingfoods for Best Health Food Store and Best All Natural/Organic Store in The Herald-Times 2018 Readers' Choice awards. We couldn't have done it without our amazing staff who work hard to make it all happen! 🍌🍌🍌



SAVE FOR SUMMER

CAMPAIGN

\$10,981.80

Even more thanks are due! For the month of May, Bloomingfoods shoppers raised an awesome \$10,981.80 in our Save for Summer campaign! That's a total of \$22,745.85 saved so far for the entire campaign! Huge thanks for your continued support. The Save for Summer campaign will continue in June.

JUNE LOCAL FOCUS



LuckyGuy
BAKERY



As seen on  **TODAY**

Join us in celebrating [LuckyGuy Bakery](#), our June Local Focus vendor! Straight out of Bloomington, they are committed to bringing you the most delicious handmade brownies!

Meet Joni from LuckyGuy and try their amazing brownie flavors - there are gluten free and vegan options available as well! She'll be at our Near West store on Saturday, June 2 and our East store on Saturday, June 16 from 11-2.

And don't forget that all LuckyGuy Bakery products are 30% off every Saturday in June!



Join us for CO-OP DAY on Saturday, June 16 as we celebrate and appreciate our co-op community and its members! We'll have local vendor demos, info tables, free food, and music at Bloomingfoods East and Near West. Shop on 6/16 at either store and enter to win an entire basket of Co-op Basics items!



The long-awaited moment has arrived! Bulk Organic Dried Mango from Tierra Farm is back at the East store! Let the world rejoice! The East store has steadily been switching out some bulk items for similar items from Tierra Farm which we consider higher quality, so look forward to seeing more quality bulk items!



I'll be honest- serving on the Bloomingfoods board has been more work, more time-consuming, and more emotionally draining than I expected when I submitted my application. It's also been more satisfying and fulfilling than I

had anticipated. In the balance, I'd say it's worth it, and I'm proud of the work we've done as a board and as a co-op in my short tenure as director. Based on my own experience, and without further ado, I've compiled a list of:

10 reasons to join our Bloomingfoods Board of Directors

- 1. Be informed.** There's no better way to know what's going on at Bloomingfoods than to serve on the board!
- 2. Learn something.** Whether it's reading financial reports, creating business plans, or following the latest health food trends, the board and Bfoods' staff possess a great collection of diverse expertise and we're always learning something new.
- 3. Build relationships.** The board spends a lot of time together, but we also work closely with staff and member-owners. There are so many wonderful, passionate individuals in the Bfoods community!
- 4. Share your passion.** Is there a specific co-op issue that's important to you? This is your chance to fight for it!
- 5. Share your expertise.** Like I said, the board has diverse interests and areas of expertise. If you have experience in real-estate, accounting, business law, etc., serving on the board is a great way to share your expertise.
- 6. Give back.** If you feel as grateful for Bfoods' existence in our community as we do, this is a great chance to put some time and energy into ensuring its healthy future.
- 7. Stretch your comfort zone.** We speak in front of audiences, work in small groups, chair committees, write blog posts, etc. If you aren't comfortable with it to begin with, you'll learn to be!
- 8. Build patience.** As with any group work, we all have to negotiate with differing viewpoints, and we learn to compromise and come to more robust solutions as a result.
- 9. Get even *more* invested in Bfoods!** We're immersed in Bfoods. If you already care a lot about our co-op, somehow you'll find that you care even more.
- 10. Have fun!** Serving on the board is a lot of work. But board members, Bfoods staff, our owner-members, and our community really are great bunch of people, and spending time with them is fulfilling, rewarding, and fun!

If you're interested in running for the Bloomingfoods board, pick up a packet in any Bfoods location, or find it online [here](#). Deadline for candidate packet submissions is coming up- June 14- and elections take place in September and October. Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Jacob Schumacher
Bloomingfoods Director
Perpetuation Committee Chair
jacobs@bloomingfoods.coop

HARVEST MOON



FLOWER FARM

Bloomingfoods is partnering with the City of Bloomington, [C3 Bar](#), [Cardinal Spirits](#), [Bloomington Brewing Company](#), and [Hive](#) to offer you the opportunity to celebrate with [Harvest Moon Flower Farm](#) in its 30th year of business! Join us for a tour of the farm on an evening that will culminate in a "Farm to Fork" dinner prepared with local food by local chefs. The farm offers year round farmers' market flowers, culinary herbs, produce for local restaurants, and floral arrangements for local businesses and weddings. Register online or fill out and mail a registration form with payment to the Parks and Recreation Department!

Details:

Sunday, July 15 4:30-8:30 pm

Bus departs City Hall at 4pm

\$50 per person

Registration deadline: July 9

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



Save the Date: Next Owner-Member Forum

Our next Owner-Member Forum will take place on Monday, July 23, also known as Bloomingfoods' 42nd birthday! Stay tuned for further details, but be sure to save the date to learn about the progress we've been making!



Three Dollar Dinners and The True Cost of Food

Bloomingfoods was recently featured on an episode of Earth Eats, a weekly WFIU podcast, public radio program, and blog. Board President Maggie Sullivan and Interim General Manager Dee Bohler sat down with producer Kayte Young for one of our \$3 Dinners. Click on to listen to the radio spot and learn more about our \$3 Dinners, food affordability, and the true cost of food!

[Listen Here](#)

Old Photos for East

We're refreshing and redecorating our East store and are on a search for old Bloomingfoods-related photos. Do you have any old photos taken at Bloomingfoods or of Bloomingfoods staff? If so, please email them to info@bloomingfoods.coop or drop them off at our Business Office behind the Near West store!



Father's Day is Sunday, June 17! Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there!

Upcoming Board of Directors Meetings

Regularly scheduled monthly board meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Board Meetings are open to co-op owner-members and guests of the board. Familiarity with the Bylaws, Policies, and the Policy Governance Method will enhance your understanding of the board meeting process.

Meetings are held at Noodles & Company Conference Room, Eastland Plaza, [2560 E Third St](#)

Thursday, June 28th

Thursday, July 27th

Thursday, August 30th

SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, October 9, at the Clubhouse at the Fields. More information to come!



Join MHC for an Advocacy Internship! Advocacy interns help build community power, share information about upcoming legislation, and learn the in's-and-out's of the emergency food system. For a full position description, click [here](#). To apply, send a resume and cover letter to Hannah Lencheck at community@mhcfoodpantry.org.

The Bloomington Community Song Circle has been enjoying the use of Bloomingfoods East's patio room once or twice every month for a year and a half. Everyone is welcome — all ages and all voices, experienced or not. Join in for an evening of fun/beautiful/heartfelt/positive song taught by a variety of singers. Next circle will be June 15 at Bloomingfoods at 6:30 pm. For more information e-mail Bsongcircle@aol.com, or find the group on Facebook or meetup.com.

Community Kitchen Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer times available:

7:30am-9:30am - Prepare lunches for summer food lunch program (Mon-Fri)

10:00am-1:00pm - Deliver lunches (Mon-Fri)

11:30am-1:30pm - Meal prep shift (Mon-Sat)

3:30pm-6:30pm - Meal prep/serving shift (Mon-Sat)

Volunteers can come in on a regular basis (weekly, monthly) or on an as-needed

basis. Children 10-13 can volunteer with an adult; 14 and older can volunteer by themselves. Groups of 3-5 are welcome. These are great opportunities for students who want to gain some volunteer/work experience or for families to participate together. The Community Kitchen uses approximately 110 volunteers each week among those 4 shifts, so the need is constant. If you are interested, please contact June at 812-332-0999 or june@monroecommunitykitchen.com

Bloomingfoods Culture Club

Are you a maker of kraut, kefir, kombucha, yogurt, or other edible ferments? Let's get together and share our passion for homegrown probiotics. I'm a newbie and would love to learn what is working (or not working) for other fermenters. I'm envisioning a monthly meet up where we share our latest creations, our favorite recipes, our surplus starters, or just our enthusiasm. Perhaps in the future we could organize kraut making parties, bulk buying opportunities, or food swaps. Interested? Send me a note at maggie@greencouple.com with your ideas and a couple suggested meeting dates in June.

Summer Garden Walk

Bloomingfoods is still selling tickets for The Bloomington Garden Club's 29th annual Summer Garden Walk! A \$10 ticket gets you access to the 2018 garden walk which will take place on Saturday, Jun 16 and Sunday, June 17 from 10-2pm each day. Proceeds of the annual Summer Garden Walk benefit children's gardening programs and civic planting and beautification.

30th Annual Bloomington Salsa Contest

Save the date! The 2018 City of Bloomington & Bloomingfoods Salsa Contest will take place on Saturday, August 4. Entry packets will be available in store early July. Stay tuned for more information!

Bloomington Community Farmer's Market: Saturdays at Showers Commons, April - November; Tuesdays on North Madison near Bloomingfoods Near West, June - April

Bean Blossom Farmer's Market: Fridays, May 25 - August 31 in Bean Blossom (north of Nashville, IN)

Parks & Recreation Gardening Classes





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