

5-10-2011

## Interview with Michelle Markesteyn-Ratcliffe, ODA, 2011

Michelle Markesteyn-Ratcliffe

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/sustainhist>



Part of the [Agricultural Education Commons](#), and the [Sustainability Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Rice, Megan, "Interview with Michelle Markesteyn-Ratcliffe, ODA, 2011" (2011). Sustainability History Project.  
<http://archives.pdx.edu/ds/psu/10832>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Sustainability History Project Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. For more information, please contact [pdxscholar@pdx.edu](mailto:pdxscholar@pdx.edu).

**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY PROJECT**  
**INTERVIEW INDEX**

INTERVIEWEE: Michelle Markesteyn-Ratcliffe, Dept of Agriculture

Interviewer: Megan Rice

Date: May 10, 2011

Location of Interview: Food Innovation Center

Research Assistant: Angelina Peters

Interview Series: Documenting Sustainable Practices in the Pacific Northwest

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN  
 EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time	Notes
0:35	What brought you to Portland? Works in Portland but lives in Hubbard, OR
1:00	Portland is greatest city to live
1:13	Attend College; Attended Northern College and University of Montana; Masters in Environmental Law and Policy at Vermont Law School and finished Tufts University with a PhD in Agricultural, Food and the Environment.
1:40	Farm to School Program.
1:42	New term only 12-15 years old.
2:00	Worked summer on a farm during college
2:11	Able to connect people with their food
2:20	Doctoral program doing school gardening.
2:27	You can change what people think about food
2:33	Kids love Swiss Chard but they can't eat it at home or at school. Became involved with procurement side of it.
2:51	School garden is very difficult. To get them started; embedding them in education and have them sustained.
3:10	Describe a typical day. No typicalness
3:21	Farm to school is unfolding; R&D

4:02	Boat to School Program
6:24	Eco Trust, Farm to School coordinator there
7:03	Funds for Farm to School program. Federal and State funding.
7:48	Institutionalize Farm to School across the state and nationally
7:55	In Oregon, push from Oregon Food and Farm to School Organization to have 3 things legislated.
8:10	1. Position in the Dept of Agriculture; secured in 2007.
8:15	2. Position in the Dept of Education; secured in 2008.
8:18	In 2009 and 2011 asking for \$22 million. \$19 million to fund state meals. \$3 million in school garden grants for School Garden coordinators.
8:39	Oregon state does not fund school meals and every other state in the country does assist to help fund school meals
8:50	Child nutrition programs are federally funded but states usually kick in a few cents (4 to 19 cents in California) and Oregon does not provide that supplement.
9:04	Hurdle number #2 is the economic recession
9:27	Linda Cowell. Organization Eat, Think, Grow well. Grow.org
10:00	Credits at PSU for the 32-hour training program
11:02	Farm to School volunteers?
11:31	Farm to School not really a program
11:48	Over 200 school gardens in the state
11:53	Benevolent brokers usually run by Non-profits
12:16	Oregon State University. Evaluating decrease duplication and increase efficiency. They have 4H and SNAP Ed.
13:23	Farm to School Network. 8 regional lead and Eco Trust is the Regional Lead.
13:56	School Food Focus. Working to get 40 largest school districts to bring healthier foods.
14:35	USDA Farm to School Team: 15 site visits and 2 of those were to Oregon
15:21	Receives the most benefit from Farm to School?
15:31	Everyone does.
15:52	Food production
16:06	Win for economy. Eco Trust survey. For every \$1.00 spent it brings back \$1.86 in

	community
16:23	Food to School is for environment. Provides opportunity
16:40	For the kids. Connect them to the Earth in meaningful ways.
17:13	Way our children eat is a national security issue.
17:23	Childhood obesity is a national security issue
17:31	WWI and WWII school meals program started. Not enough fit soldiers to fight in war.
17:49	Food production and fit soldiers to fight in wars
17:59	United States School Garden Army
18:23	People are over-nourished and under-nourished
18:44	Generals signed regarding school meals
19:21	Michelle Obama's book on School Gardening
20:05	Prepare for success in Food to School
20:31	Food to School carry over into adulthood
20:41	Leanne Burge research
20:58	Children decline in fruits and vegetable consumption
21:11	Farm to Preschool
22:00	Don't have to think about buying locally. It becomes the Norm and not the exception
22:29	Kids go to local store and see fruits and vegetables
22:52	Easier to buy organic strawberries from California then Oregon
23:16	Farm to School successful on all fronts
23:28	Policy, Networking, Media, Training and Technical and Communications
23:46	Procurement and Education
24:45	School Gardens date back to 1800's
25:00	Urban/Rural divide
25:41	Social capital: connection and meanings
26:21	Systemic address
26:33	Food is sacred in multicultural society
26:53	Definitions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental
28:00	US Agricultural needs portfolio

28:36	Proudest achievement: kids and pleasure in working with people in this field
29:40	Only 13-peer reviewed articles on Food to School programs
30:45	Persistent challenges: current system; Boat to School
31:44	Future of Farm to School: big steps will be made; a lot of work will be done behind the scenes, Farm to school imbedded nationally.
32:35	Self reliance-climate changes
33:55	Social capital
33:59	Career opportunities within Food to School and School Gardens
34:15	Farm to School and School Gardens is where the environmental movement was 30-40 years ago
34:34	Green jobs
35:40	State advocacy for school meals
37:03	Kids have say in school gardens
38:17	Resilience and youth
44:32	Danielle Meadows. Limits to Growth Theory