Interview with Shari Sirkin, Dancing Roots Farm, 2008 (audio)

Shari Sirkin
**Portland State University Oral History Project**

**INTERVIEW INDEX**

**INTERVIEWEE:** Shari Sirkin  
**Interviewer:** Brian Francetich  
**Date:** May 28, 2008  
**Location of Interview:** Dancing Roots Farm  
**Research Assistant:** Tyler Anderson  
**Interview Series:** Sustainability History Project  
**Recording Equipment:** DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Notes:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0:50</td>
<td>Background – California</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:48</td>
<td>Left for Alaska – Fairbanks</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:20</td>
<td>Hooked on gardening</td>
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<td>3:00</td>
<td>14 lb zucchini! Moved to Portland, Oregon 1992</td>
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<td>4:45</td>
<td>Changed major- learn Alaskan- degree for teaching</td>
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<td>6:00</td>
<td>Husband background-taught in Fairbanks- writing curriculum</td>
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<td>8:00</td>
<td>Moving to Portland- bought house in 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>Bought house- because dorm at house, motivation to buy farm</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Why farm? How Shari got into Activism</td>
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<td>11:34</td>
<td>Community involvement in A.K.- role as citizen</td>
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<td>12:15</td>
<td>Drive for C.S.A.- Activism for common good</td>
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<td>13:30</td>
<td>C.S.A. provide an option for food people want</td>
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<td>15:09</td>
<td>How to aptitude test lead to agriculture</td>
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<td>16:32</td>
<td>Going back to school</td>
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<td>17:01</td>
<td>Bryan (husband) has interview on C.S.A.- ‘94</td>
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<td>18:20</td>
<td>Connection of C.S.A. w/ numbers- physical/educational/activism</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:40</td>
<td>meets Will Newman</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:15</td>
<td>Favorite part of farming</td>
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<td>21:00</td>
<td>Feeling of why C.S.A. is so great</td>
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<tr>
<td>22:00</td>
<td>Transition (’97) to current farm- Job at Oregon tilth</td>
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<td>23:00</td>
<td>Laura Masteison- working 7 days a week!</td>
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<td>24:30</td>
<td>An area to farm</td>
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<td>26:00</td>
<td>’97- first C.S.A.- 35 shares- 47th Ave farm</td>
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<td>27:00</td>
<td>’98-’99- farmed solo- Serruria family – first tractor</td>
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<td>28:30</td>
<td>Credit for starting a C.S.A</td>
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“I grow what I love” – partnered with Barry
Straight C.S.A. 100-130 farming
Trouble with farming land you do not own
Took year off to look for house
Learning about C.S.A.
Certified food organic- social certification program
House for sale by owner- bought from woodards
More on history of this farm
Honor of house- purchased in 2002 (full)
Constructing and beginning of a house
2004- started farming squash- first crop
Operating a C.S.A. on own land- proud of new farmers
Irrigation plan
Buying old pickup truck for water
Bucket water story
Pickups for C.S.A. shares- S.W.
2004- Shares- large and small- 90%
150 small Shares
last comments