

5-28-2008

## Interview with Jill and Michael J. Paine, Gaining Ground Farm, 2008 (audio)

Jill Paine

Michael J. Paine

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# PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEE: Mike Paine

Interviewer: James Pritchett

Date: May 28, 2008

Location of Interview: Gaining Ground Farm

Research Assistant: Derek Runberg

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

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

Time	Notes
0:00	Background – Hawaii-Portland-CT-Bronx
1:35	No farming background
2:25	Peace Corps, starts farming
4:00	Returns to California to work on Environmental Policy
4:25	Manages farm in Costa Rica
5:50	Goes to UC Davis for Masters
6:50	Decides to avoid policy and start Gaining Ground Farm
8:10	Finds this land at 76acres
8:30	Previous land owner history- Archie Hield – recently deceased
9:30	Problems securing the land for purchase
10:00	Description of property
11:10	Starts farming in 2004
11:55	First year of CSA
12:30	Number of members for various years
13:00	Farmer’s Markets
14:25	Farming acreage expansions on GGF
15:30	Landscape rotation
16:30	Green Houses for interns

Time	Notes
17:25	Chicken operation (5-7k chickens)
19:00	Collaboration with other farms (meat, salmon, wine , chicken, cheese)
20:00	Restaurant sales
21:00	CSAs and Portland's "hunger" for local food
24:00	Connectivity
26:30	Most on restaurants
28:50	CSA work load- season length, employees
30:25	Variety of crops
31:20	CSA Operational setup
32:30	Drop site information
36:30	Land information, soil quality, food quality, relationship over time
42:25	Bugs and pests
44:55	Irrigation system, two natural ponds provide all the water for CSA
46:30	Other attempts towards sustainability
48:25	Stewardship vs sustainability
49:55	Interns-human rotation, typical applicant, social environment
54:30	Jill's (wife) role on the farm
56:30	Future of GGF
58:00	Faming and Food policy
1:01:30	Future of CSA movement
1:03:40	Cost/share, thoughts on competition, satisfaction level