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Interview with Melanie Plies, Backyard Bounty, 2008 (audio)

Melanie Plies

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEE: Melanie Plies

Interviewer: Stephenie Bitz

Date: May 21th, 2008

Location of Interview: Melanie Plies residence

Research Assistant: Clinton Andersen

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

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

Time	Notes
0:00:00	Introduction
0:00:13	Name
0:00:25	Location and date of birth
0:00:50	Moved to LA for College
0:01:02	Parents background
0:01:35	Siblings
0:02:50	Lessons learned as a child
0:04:10	Family fun as a child
0:04:40	College focus
0:04:50	Elementary through Highschool
0:05:10	Favorite subjects
0:07:30	Favorite teacher – Mr. Sweeny
0:08:10	Work experience
0:10:34	Non-profit work in LA
0:12:03	Travel to Guatemala
0:12:13	Returned to Portland
0:12:24	Meals on Wheels
0:13:35	Work with a group at Portland State University

0:14:23	Urban education farm near Johnson Creek
0:15:43	Bumblebee farm internship
0:16:11	Gene's farm
0:16:30	Backyard Bounty established
0:17:15	Workings of the Backyard Bounty
0:18:20	Trip to Costa Rica for work on farms
0:20:40	Business ideas that lead to the beginning of the CSA
0:21:05	Number of yards currently used by the CSA
0:23:20	Family compensation for yard use
0:24:05	Yard owner Volunteers
0:24:40	What is grown on each plot
0:26:00	Delivery or Pickup?
0:26:50	Tiller use
0:28:20	Sun Gardens partnership
0:28:56	Locations of other plots in SW Portland
0:29:57	Who works the plots
0:31:02	Diversity of foods
0:31:50	Growing season
0:32:20	Organic practices
0:33:33	Soil testing
0:34:40	CSA philosophy
0:36:50	How Melanie supplements her income
0:37:25	Number of members
0:38:34	Cost of a share
0:39:05	Member inputs
0:40:05	Contacting members
0:40:45	Pick up locations
0:41:18	Yearly pot luck offered to members
0:41:33	Building a community
0:42:54	Newsletter
0:43:50	Educating members

0:45:00	Defining sustainable agriculture
0:47:40	Dry gardening
0:48:48	Pest control
0:50:10	Soil fertility plan
0:50:58	Compost use
0:51:30	Steve Solomon's organic fertilizer
0:52:20	Seeds
0:53:50	Rewards
0:56:40	Challenges of Urban Farming
0:58:13	Future of Backyard Bounty
0:59:24	Future of Urban Farming