

5-15-2013

Interview with Courtney Leeds, Candy Lane Elementary, 2013 (audio)

Courtney Leeds

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEES: ___ Courtney Leeds & Justin Davidson _____

Interviewer: ___ Nicole Bull _____

Date: ___ 5.15.13 _____

Location of Interview: ___ Candy Lane Elementary _____

Research Assistant: ___ Margret Harburg _____

Interview Series: SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY PROJECT

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

Time Notes

00:00:50	Courtney's Early Education and Sustainability Education
00:01:20	Courtney- Garden at school in Chico and Recycle Reduce Reuse program
00:02:00	Courtney started gardening at age 23
00:03:30	Courtney recalls getting into sustainability and changing careers
00:04:20	Courtney explains WWOOF- World Wide Opportunities for Organic Farming
00:05:30	Courtney's college background and previous career in marketing
00:07:00	Courtney working in permaculture and urban farming
00:09:05	Courtney goes to Peru to learn about indigenous farming practices
00:10:30	Courtney discovered Zenger Farm apprenticeship
00:12:00	Courtney and Justin heard about opportunity to farm at a school through PACSAC- Portland Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition
00:13:20	School Yard Farms mission to create healthy communities
00:14:30	Broad definition of healthy communities
00:15:30	Where they sell their produce
00:16:20	The history of the land before it became School Yard Farms
00:17:00	Previous farmers abandoned CSA-Community Supported Agriculture before the end of the season
00:19:30	Garden Education aspect of School Yard Farms

00:20:20	Justin's garden education background
00:20:40	Justin's educational background and how he became a farmer

Time Notes

00:21:50	Justin's AmeriCorps capstone in food
00:22:30	Justin's position at Sauvie Island Organics and his year off
00:23:30	Justin volunteered at Zenger Farm where he met Courtney
00:24:00	Justin's sustainability education
00:24:30	Justin's experience that brought him to food system sustainability education
00:25:15	Courtney's experience that brought her to food system sustainability education
00:26:50	Courtney comments on how they educate different grades
00:27:20	Justin comments on how they educate different grades
00:28:00	Courtney- plant parts education for students
00:28:50	Courtney talks about after school program for students vital connection to fresh food
00:29:30	Courtney- garden education after school program being funded through extended day program in the Oregon school district
00:30:30	Courtney- CSA progression
00:31:30	Courtney- Why individual shares for their CSA
00:32:40	Justin- Why individual shares for their CSA
00:33:15	Courtney- Funding: CSA, Farmers Market, Head Start, PTA, non-profit status
00:34:30	Courtney- the process of getting non-profit 501c3 status
00:35:11	Courtney- financial vision
00:35:20	Courtney- Summer camp as a potential financial backing
00:36:30	Justin- 2012 pilot summer camp experience
00:37:40	Justin- relationship with PTA is getting better
00:38:20	Courtney- summer camp hurdles: outdoor classroom, resources to hire someone
00:39:20	Justin- nonprofit status benefits, hopes to increase financial sustainability
00:40:00	Courtney- difficulties with branding and regaining community support
00:41:10	Courtney- rebuilding relationship with PTA has taken a year
00:41:50	Courtney- challenges for urban farmers to feed institutions (schools, jails, hospitals)
00:42:50	Courtney- new principal has helped them to get produce into the school, but they need

	a fence to meet food safety requirement
00:44:20	Courtney- difficult to get final approval for fence
00:44:50	Courtney- slow to get approval through the school
00:45:30	Courtney- school is not equipped to be a scratch kitchen: lack of infrastructure and funding for labor
00:47:10	Courtney- feedback on garden education and fresh food in kitchen from community
00:48:05	Justin- feedback from community at Zenger farm and Sabin is positive
00:48:50	Courtney- greater vision and advice to spread School Yard Farms to other schools
00:50:00	Courtney- working with the community: Greencorps, Head Start
00:51:20	Justin- SYF model is more sustainable than hiring a contract garden educator
00:52:30	Justin- additional comments: The sustainability of urban agriculture
00:53:30	Justin- the price of food is too low to support urban farmers
00:54:10	Courtney- sustainable farming practices: resourceful and responsible with the land as possible e.g. little tilling
00:55:40	Courtney- Laura Masterson at 47 th farms and the “real price” of broccoli
00:56:40	Courtney- no subsidies for organic farming and exploited labor workers
00:57:40	Courtney- volunteers in organic agriculture
00:58:15	Courtney- they could use more people, there needs to be a shift in priorities in the government and private investors
00:59:20	Justin- touchy subject, try not to get too political
00:59:40	Courtney- their role in the alternative food system movement
01:00:20	Justin- sustainable apprenticeship model
01:01:10	Courtney- future of their careers as urban farmers
01:02:15	Courtney’s day job at Whole Foods
01:03:20	Courtney- opportunity for developing distribution model for small producers selling local food to large grocery stores
01:04:30	Justin’s day job as Sabin’s garden educator
01:05:00	Justin- SUN program- Schools Uniting Neighborhoods
01:05:30	Justin- unsustainable school garden system as is
01:06:20	Justin- differences between Sabin’s garden and Candy Lane’s
01:07:40	Justin- figuring out revenue sources and sustainability of School Yard Farms

01:08:00	Courtney- living wage salary possible through grants not CSA alone
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