

William G.J. Durkin



EXPERIENCE

Front Desk Supervisor/Manager on Duty, The Cape Arundel Inn Resort, Kennebunkport, April 2014-Present (Seasonal) perform public relations, guest services duties, management oversight, Roommaster operations system

Front Desk Supervisor/Manager on Duty, The Colony Hotel, Kennebunkport, ME May 2011-Oct 2013 (Seasonal) perform public relations, guest services duties, management oversight, Opera reservation system

Independent Contractor, Dube Travel Agency , Auburn , Maine 2012-current
Operating Irish Folklore Tours for private groups and educational institutions, offering nature, culture and arts based touring experiences.

Independent Contractor , Maine Coast Heritage Trust , Topsham, ME 2012
Assisted in landowner outreach and parcel identification within the Kennebunkport-Biddeford Vernal Pool Complex. Coordinated with Project Manager field work, grant proposals and land trust activities

President, Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
Ocean Park, Maine (Board Member since 1989, Volunteer)

- Assisted Refuge Manager in identifying critical land for wildlife protection, including initiating contact with landowners and willing sellers.
- Advised the Refuge on its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (May 2007).
- Supported communications with the Refuge's 11 division communities in York and Cumberland coastal towns (Kittery to Cape Elizabeth) and attended town planning board meetings with knowledge of the local zoning issues and community outreach
- Established key relationships with Maine's senators and representatives and congressional staff members. Successful in securing more than \$10 million in funding over the past 10 years. Friends newsletter editor.
- Traveled to Washington, DC to testify to U.S. Congress House of Representatives Appropriations Sub-committee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Refuge System, highlighting the Timber Point Initiative.
- Collaborated with conservation partners, The Trust for Public Land, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust with the successful fundraising of \$5.2M for the protection and acquisition of 97 acres at Timber Point in Biddeford/Kennebunkport to be held by the refuge. (Fall, 2011).

Executive Director/Owner, Hemisphere Travel Service and Irish Folklore Tours, Biddeford, Maine October 1989 - 2011

- Created, organized, marketed and sold educational tours worldwide (i.e. Ireland, France, Great Britain, Argentina and Vietnam).

- Designed tours for non-profit and higher education institutions such as Smithsonian Institute, Vanderbilt University, New York University, Hiram and Bentley Colleges, University of New England.
- Negotiated and contracted financial transactions for tour related costs.
- Managed diverse network of team members: hotels, airlines, ground operators, brochure designers and printers, tour members, alumni and staff, guides.
- Presented tour itinerary and descriptions to groups (sales and marketing).
- Collaborated successfully with clients from variety backgrounds from all around the world; worked independently and with “tour teams.”

Timber Framer and Carpenter R.A.Krouse, Arundel, Maine

Travel Agent/Manager Durkin World Travels, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Coordinated and managed family retail business.
- Learned fundamentals of cash flow, profit-loss, net cost, operating budgets, advertising, and customer service.
- Introduced to World Geography and mapping tools.

EDUCATION

Master of Science Teaching in Environmental Education
Antioch New England Graduate School, Keene, New Hampshire

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Analysis
University of New England, Biddeford, Maine

Associate of Science in General Studies
Montgomery County Community College
Blue Bell, Pennsylvania

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Very knowledgeable about land conservation funding processes on state and federal levels (LWCF, LMF, MNRCP, local town bonding, private grants and endowments,). Experience in grant writing, Environmental Education programs, community development and the natural world. Ability to navigate through computer software systems; well versed with the Maine Atlas.

Conservation and Community Planner

- Co-author for 2014 Lands for Maine Future application on behalf of the City of Biddeford
- Advisor to High Peaks Alliance's Initiative on a National Wildlife Refuge idea
- Member University of New England's Saco River Sustainability Study project
- Biddeford RiverWalk Steering and Planning Committee
- Co-author Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program application for the Boutin/Clifford Park land acquisition (with Keith Fletcher, MCHT)
- MNRCP Project Manager (with The Nature Conservancy) for Boutin/Clifford Park
- Coordinator of the first Biddeford Open Space Conference (2010)
- Advisor to the Biddeford Recreation Department on trails and land acquisitions
- Co-author Biddeford Open Space Plan (2012)
- Timber Point Fundraising Committee Co-Chair (along with Wolfe Tone, Trust for Public Land and Tom Bradbury, Kennebunkport Conservation Trust for RCNWR)
- Main Street Challenge Panel Judge for the Heart of Biddeford
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition member (Washington, DC)
- Maine Project Learning Tree Presenter

Research and Working Projects

- Masters Thesis: Environmental Travel, using travel as means of influencing viewpoints on “quality of place”
- Socio-Economic History of Irish-American Travel Agents
- Environmental Law in Tourism Development
- Bikeway Proposal for City of Keene, New Hampshire
- Designed and constructed Cascade Falls Trout Pond Loop Trail (City of Saco, ME)
- Socio-Economic Impact on Proposed Gulf of Maine Aquarium
- An Ecological History of Biddeford Pool, Maine

ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (1989-present)
The Friends is a non-profit group that supports the mission of the Refuge. We aim to raise local awareness of the need for wildlife habitat protection.
- Chairman, Downtown Development Commission, City of Biddeford appointment
- Open Space Committee, Chairman, City of Biddeford - a ad-hoc committee appointed by the Mayor featuring a working relationship with the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. Co-author of the Open Space Plan, completed in November, 2012. Includes inventory, recommendations, funding sources , 13 maps and much more. Introduced to ARC GIS software and created the maps with Biddeford's GIS specialist. Can be viewed at www.biddefordmaine.org. Successful in obtaining \$310,000 in grants towards purchase of 53 acres of conservation land in January 2011.
- RiverWalk Coalition steering committee member, a Biddeford-Saco commission
- Biddeford High School Boys Basketball Advisory Committee
- Fundraising Committee, Catherine McAuley High School, Portland (past)
- Fundraising Committee, St. James School, Biddeford (past)
- Biddeford/Saco Chamber of Commerce (past member)
- Kennebunkport Tourism Promotion Committee (past member)
- University of New England Alumni Council
- Biddeford Pool Land Trust board (past member)
- Baseball and basketball coach, St James Grade School

INTERESTS

Hiking, mountain biking, skiing, sailing, kayaking, boating, reading, art, music, woodworking, stonewall building, travel, basketball, backroads touring, map collecting, research, writing, collaborating, carpentry (I built my own house -cut a cottage in half and moved it and did a timber framed addition), studying Maine landscapes through ecological eyes, walking mountain and coastal paths with my wife.