

RESUME OF
Mary Jo Padgett

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Graduated University of North Carolina @ Greensboro, B.A., English
Languages: American English native tongue; French, strong intermediate level

Currently specializing in
Guided History Walks on Main Street Hendersonville
Lecture/presentations on Paris and on American Revolution History in Paris
Consultant, PR and Marketing
Editor/consultant, papers and presentations in English for French-speaking clients

April - September 2014

Interim Executive Director

Environmental and Conservation Organization (ECO)

Returned to manage this nonprofit organization during its merger process with two other nonprofit organizations - Western North Carolina Alliance and Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance. (See my history with ECO below.)

January 2009-present

Presenter/lecturer

Presenter: I regularly present an 8-hour Powerpoint course that I created, "A Year In Paris: Living and Learning the City of Light," at community colleges and for private groups ~ Blue Ridge Community College, Isothermal Community College, Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman University, among others.

The 90-minute Powerpoint version of this same course is used for private showings, events, and one-time presentations. Presented at Wild Dunes Community, S.C. for a French get-away program, Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning, Kanuga Conferences, a Bastille Day program at Falderal Winery, Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, among others.

I also teach "A Walking Guide in Paris: Discovering American Revolution History," a 6-hour Powerpoint course. Generally offered at community colleges and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman University, etc.. This program focuses on locations in Paris that relate to the American Revolution.

I annually conduct guided history walks and sessions for the American Library in Paris.

PR Consultant/Journalist/Editor:

May 2011-present: Clients include Falderal Winery, Van's Chocolates, Spice It Up, several authors, Hendersonville Sister Cities, Hendersonville Tree Board, Environmental and Conservation Organization, private memoirs.

Dec. 2009-March 2012. PR consultant/journalist with Arizona Centennial Legacy Projects, a program of the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission. Researched and wrote news releases, posted on the AZ Centennial website, about the 150 Legacy Projects developed across the state to celebrate the AZ Centennial of Statehood in 2012 (www.azcentennial.gov).

Participated (2009) with a national team of researchers to investigate and report on the transparency of information in the Arizona state government, working through the Arizona Dept. of Libraries, Records, and Archives.

2009, I appeared on DécideursTV, Paris, on a program entitled *Gérants Verts* (Green Decision-makers), aired on Earth Day (April 22), discussing my role as founder of ECO, sustainability, environmental concerns, and my political experiences in WNC.

April 2007-July 2008

French language student, freelance journalist/editor, English language coach

Lived in Paris, France, primarily to study French language and to report on European culture, business, travel, and environment for U.S. publications. Was a regular contributor to *The Paris Times* magazine and freelance articles for U.S. publications.

During April-July '08 I was a freelance "Conversation Partner," working with the students of an American who teaches private English lessons to French students. I coached students of various ages: Solal, a 4-year-old; the Guichard children, ages 5, 9, and 12; Bruno and Eric, both 22-year-old Ph.D. students; and Madeleine, a 60-year-old French woman who is a translator, specializing in finance. Another student, Clemence, I also coached in English-language presentation skills, and edited research papers for this 23-year-old Ph.D. student presenting her research at conferences in Oslo, Berlin, and Paris (Clemence reported success in explaining in English her comparisons of welfare-state procedures in Germany and France since the 1970s in relation to the working poor.)

Have continued editing papers and coaching Clemence and other Ph.D. students via internet from North Carolina.

May 1995-April 2007

Executive Director

Environmental and Conservation Organization (ECO)

Hendersonville, North Carolina

Administrator of this 500-member nonprofit organization (501(c)3) with two staff members, active in Western North Carolina and upper South Carolina in a five-county region, which I and my former husband founded in 1987. Its mission is to work for clean air, clean water, recreational opportunities, and the conservation and preservation of the natural heritage and resources of the mountain region through education, recreation, service projects, and civic action. Partnered with local governments and state government departments, businesses and commercial endeavors, travel and tourism, wildlife resources commission, educators and schools, developers, to accomplish sustainable goals. In addition to writing grants and planning and executing fundraising, events, hikes, panel discussions, political activities, working with hundreds of volunteers, presenting reports and research related to air quality, water quality, and education, and coordinating with an active board of directors, I created all media releases - print, radio, and TV - and produced all promotional and educational materials. Press releases have been published throughout the southeast in newspapers and magazines, leading to regular media coverage of ECO's events and programs.

(www.eco-wnc.org)

November 1987-on-going

Co-founder

Environmental and Conservation Organization (ECO)

Hendersonville, North Carolina

I and my former husband founded this successful nonprofit organization. My former husband left the organization in 1993. I supported the organization's growth in various ways over the years - including as president of the board and as executive director for 12 years. In April 2007 I stepped away as executive director, assisting the board of directors to hire my replacement. The organization is still thriving. Today I act as advisor.

November 1984-present

Freelance journalist/editor

My work has appeared in the following publications: Hendersonville Lightening, WNC Woman, Carolina Home+Garden; The Paris Times; Accueil Internationale; Raleigh News&Observer (NC); ECO Notes (regional environmental newsletter); Hendersonville Times-News; Asheville Citizen-Times; Atlanta Journal-Constitution; Carolina Architecture and Design (national magazine); Mountain XPress (Asheville, NC/regional tabloid); Sierra magazine (national); Our State magazine (NC monthly); The Mother Earth News magazine (national); Blue Ridge Business Journal (Asheville/regional); What's Happening magazine (Hendersonville/regional); Motorcycle magazine; Atlanta magazine; Dance Magazine (national); Creative Loafin' (southeast tabloid), Southern Living magazine, Blue Ridge Country (east coast), GO magazine (Southeast AAA publication). Topics: travel, the arts, crafts, business, environmental news/issues, wine, gardening, architecture, outdoors, politics, events, etc.

November 1990-June 1995

Director of Marketing and Public Relations; and Supervisor of Volunteer Services

Trend Community Mental Health Services, Hendersonville and Brevard, North Carolina

October 1989-May 1990

Account Executive/Copywriter

Young Creative Associates (advertising agency)
Hendersonville, North Carolina

November 1986-October 1989

Associate Director of Communications

Kanuga Conference Center, Inc. (Episcopal)
Hendersonville, North Carolina

December 1980-September 1985

Associate Editor

The Mother Earth News magazine
Hendersonville, North Carolina

September 1975-December 1981

Dance Critic

Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper
Atlanta, Georgia

1975-1981

Dance Editor and Contributing Writer

Atlanta Magazine
Atlanta, Georgia

1976-1980

Copy editor

Tucker Wayne Advertising
Atlanta Georgia

Honors:

Choir member, American Cathedral in Paris (Episcopal); Appeared on DécideursTV, Paris, France, 2009; 2007 received Lela McBride Land Stewardship Award from Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy; 2005 Outstanding Community Volunteer Award from N.C. Big Sweep on behalf of ECO and Henderson County; Nominated, NC Women of Distinction award, 2005; NC Governor's Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding County Leadership for the 2003 N.C. Big Sweep; 1999 Southern Women's Leadership Award; One of 123 women in "A Biographical Directory of Henderson County Women 1945-1995," compiled by Henderson County Council for Women; Fellow, N.C. Natural Resources Leadership Institute; winner, "Name Our Newsletter" contest, Land of Sky Regional Council; awarded Emerging Artist Grant (1992); Best Newsletter, media competition, National Assoc. of Mental Health Communications Officers (1994); recipient, Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service; adjudicator for American College Dance Festival Assoc., Southeastern and Midwestern regions; guest critic, N.C. Dance Alliance Annual Choreographer's Showcase; recipient, Gold Mountain Addy Award; recipient, full scholarship to 3-week American Dance Festival Dance Critics' Conference, Duke University.

Civic Leadership:

President, Hendersonville Sister Cities board of directors (2009-15); Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy board of trustees, chair of Public Policy Committee (2007-present); Hendersonville Green Challenge Task Force, appointed member (2008-2010); Served two terms on Hendersonville City Council (1997-2005), 4 years as Mayor Pro-Tem; Ran close but unsuccessful political campaigns for Mayor of Hendersonville (2005 and 2009); Local Government Council for Cooperative Action; Western Carolina Community Action board of directors (**appointed**); Blue Ribbon Commission appointed by Henderson County Commissioners for the restoration of the Henderson County Courthouse; Mountain Area Information Network board of directors; Mill Center for the Arts board of directors, chair of PR Committee; Henderson County Transportation Advisory Board; Henderson County Planning Board (appointed); French Broad River Voluntary Buffer Partnership; member, Clean Air Campaign committee; Regional Intramodal Transportation Advisory Council; Mud Creek Watershed Restoration Council member; Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Council board; Friends of DuPont Forest founding member of board of directors, chair of PR Committee and on Public Policy Committee; Henderson County Arts Council board of directors and past-president; Art-in-the-Schools program creator; Leadership Hendersonville IV graduate; Co-founder of ECO.

Courses and workshops I have taken:

Business Video Boot Camp, Blue Ridge Community College Small Business Dept., Dec. 2014; 2014 WNC Women's Business Conference, Blue Ridge Community College; 8-week Business Accounting Course, Blue Ridge Community College Small Business Dept., grad. 6/25/14; Speechcraft Course of Toastmasters International, Furman University, grad. 3/5/13; Social Media in Your Business, Blue Ridge Community College, 12 contact hours, 4/1/10

Places I have visited:

Alaska (one trip was to write about the Iditarod Dog Sled Race), Australia (including Tasmania), Austria, Belgium, Canada (Quebec, Montreal, Victoria, Nova Scotia, 10-day canoe trip on the French River in Ontario), Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, England, France, Germany, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Scotland, Switzerland, Wales, most states in the U.S. I lived in Paris, France, winter 2011-12; April 2007- August '08, and visit annually.