

Gracia Brown and Tyler Fenton: Service Club Scholarship Winners

By Sandee Waine
Beacon staff

The Andover Service Club is proud to present scholarships to local graduates from high school or continuing education students. I recently had the pleasure to be in touch with two local students, Tyler Fenton and Gracia Brown, about their plans for the future.

Many know Tyler, his mother Kendel Currier, and his dad Les Fenton. You've seen him come up through the years at AE/MS, in Cub Scouts, playing sports, and now a graduate of Merrimack Valley High School. He will be attending the University of New Hampshire this fall with a special interest in Civil Engineering and Architecture.

I asked Tyler how he feels now, leaving Andover and preparing for college away from home. "I am nervous about leaving. It will be a very new world and a lot more freedom and responsibility. I am very excited, but at the same time I am feeling a fair amount of angst." Tyler wants to thank his parents for instilling in him a good work ethic, and all his teachers, from first grade all the way through high school, who have helped him further his knowledge in every area imaginable.

Gracia Brown

Gracia Brown, who attends Cedarville University in Ohio, is a music major and a church organist. Her interests lie in a Church Music Ministries major with piano as her instrument. "My journey through the last three years of college has been wonderful, and I am thankful for how Proctor Academy prepared me academically for this challenge," stated Gracia. "I am getting married in May of this coming year to my fiance, Chris, who I met at Cedarville. My goals after that are to get a job as a music leader



Tyler Fenton

in a church in Ohio and eventually begin a family. Chris and I both study music in college, and I would love to see us both using our talents together in some way in the future."

Gracia added, "I would like to thank my parents, who were my first teachers and who have never stopped supporting me; Steve Stebbins, my basketball coach, for teaching me about hard work and motivation; and Heidi Johnson, my high school advisor, for being a huge encourager and mentor during my years at Proctor. Finally, I want to thank Charles Clevenger, my college piano professor, for showing me how to conquer my self-critical attitude and to play from my heart to communicate my love of music."

The Andover Service Club is helping many local students with scholarships to assist in furthering their education. Ian Coll, Andrew Donaldson, Kinley Viandier, Patricia Dansereau, Jacob Wagner, Jeremiah Wagner, Todd Miller, Judith Casey, Kaitlin Marie Anderson, Rubin Adams, and Robin Dukette were all scholarship recipients as well. The Andover Service Club congratulates all these bright students and wishes them success in all their endeavors.

Marianne Fairall: An Extraordinary Influence On Nordic Skiers

By Tim Norris
Andover Outing Club

Marianne got involved with ski jumping when her daughter, Beth, started about 18 years ago. Fortunately for all of us, Marianne found the sport and its community to her liking.

It would be hard to overstate her importance to the Andover Outing Club or Eastern Ski Jumping. With her gift for organization, over the course of several years she was leading the way in the many-pronged job of setting up meets, improving the software for scoring, organizing the awards, helping work on the jumps, taking kids off to meets at other clubs, helping with those meets, and fundraising.

She heard about Barnyard Bingo somewhere. One suspects that an event based on cow poop appealed to her considerable sense of fun, but what a lot of work: She designed the layout for the necessary grid on the town green, borrowed fencing, created brochures, arranged for a baseball line marker. She fashioned cow suits for the kids to wear selling tickets: cow vests, cow hats, cow aprons. That attention to every detail and the grace with which that attention was delivered were Marianne's hallmarks.

When Nicholas and his friends, Chris Lamb and Sean Kaulbach, were eight, she took them up to jump on Lebanon's plastic mats once or twice a week. When we arrived the first day, she was just finishing up mowing the grass on the outrun with the lawn mower that she'd brought along. She had scouted out a swimming area in a nearby stream for them to cool off in afterward because summer jumping is



In this picture, taken from a poster of the 2002 Eastern Junior Olympic Team, Marianne Fairall is in the back row, fourth from the left, surrounded by kids and coaches she supported with passion and commitment.

hot work. All three of these kids were much better jumpers the next year, and two of them are among the top American jumpers today.

When Andover held the Eastern Youth Festival, Marianne festooned banners all around the landing hill, made signs for each club to carry in the opening parade, printed schedules of events, and arranged for first-rate awards. She even masterminded that each participant receive a bag of ski goodies she had solicited from the area sport shops.

At the end of each season, Marianne culled the many photographs she'd taken and mounted the best on poster boards and scrap books, often with captions, to be displayed at the end-of-season banquet which she organized.

Sometimes when we'd come out to practice in the winter, Marianne would be walking into the ski lodge with her shovel, having just cleaned off the 88 steps up to the ski jumps – looking terrific – as though shoveling all those steps was nothing. "Oh, just getting a little exercise," she'd say. She never wanted any recognition, always defrayed the many thanks that came her way, always made hard jobs appear effortless.

BORN Vanessa Lyn Guptill

A daughter, Vanessa Lyn Guptill, was born to Andrew Guptill of Andover and Gabrielle Ponzi of Dover on Friday, August 8, at Wentworth Douglas Hospital in Dover. She joins older brother Phil Ponzi.

Maternal grandparents are George and Leeann Petrie of Barnstead. Paternal grandparents are Thomas Guptill of Concord and Carol Guptill of Andover. Paternal great-grandmother is Grace Guptill of Concord.

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