Where Are They Now?

Katherine Darling

By Mary Ofenloch
Andover Service Club

If you have ever driven on Route 11 between the Proctor campus and Potter Place, you may have noticed the "Farm Stand" sign at the roadside. It directs you to the building where, from June through October, Two Mountain Farm CSA members and the general public may purchase organically grown produce.

Kat Darling, then ...

This community business is owned and operated by Katherine "Kat" Darling, daughter of Andover Service Club (ASC) member and past president Gisela Darling and her husband Steven. Katherine is a former ASC Merit Scholarship Winner.

While attending Proctor Academy, Katherine was a member of the Student Council and participated in many athletic activities, such as soccer, softball, cycling, and her main focus – ski racing. She was team captain, Most Valuable Player (MVP), and a participant in the Junior Olympics.

... and now.

Among many awards she received at graduation were the Charles A. Jones Award for Outstanding Athlete; the Clara May Currier Award for Excellence in English; the Alice S. Fowler Award given to the student in the graduation class who best exemplifies strength of character, personal dedication, and commitment to the Proctor community; and a $1,000 ASC Merit Scholarship award. Katherine also received the High School Women's Athletic and Academic Award in 1998 given by the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women.

Skiing was a big part of Katherine's life while attending Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, a Division II school. As a member of the ski team, Katherine raced throughout the western US, and her team became national champions for their division.

Since she was unsure about her choice of a major, Katherine chose general studies, although writing and literature appealed to her. Psychology, philosophy, and geography also became part of her course of study.

After taking a year off from school, Katherine lived in Berlin, Germany with her aunt for four months. Later, while in the Patagonia region of Chile, she took a wilderness leadership course with National Outdoor Leadership School. Katherine returned to Whitman for another semester, after which she spent the spring and summer traveling and working. She transferred to Prescott College in Arizona where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental science and creative writing.

During those college years, Katherine spent her summers in Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado studying fire ecology, and in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, working at Maple Spring Gardens, an organic produce farm. "While there," Katherine says, "I learned my first lessons in farming and was exposed to the great concepts of small-scale agriculture and the importance of self-reliance and healthy food systems. While I really enjoyed living in North Carolina and appreciated the great community and diversity of people there, I wanted to put down roots in an area that had four distinct seasons."

In 2003, after graduating from Prescott College, Katherine spent a winter living and skiing in Taos, New Mexico. She returned to Andover in the summer, hoping to find and purchase land for a small farm in Vermont, while working as a restaurant cook at La Meridiana in Wilmot. She spent many hours searching for land, and caring for her new friend, Poe, a "really great dog."

Mary Anne Broshek, a property owner in Andover, was introduced to Katherine. Mary Anne wanted her family's farm to be used again for agriculture, so together Katherine and Mary Anne came to an agreement – Katherine would rent a room from Mary Anne and would spend time on the land and property, putting in a test garden. That summer was spent learning how to grow in the New Hampshire climate, which is very different from that of

See Kat *on page 38*

Lake Sunapee Region VNA Elects New Trustee

LSRVNA press release

Linda Brenner, owner and operator of Woodcrest Village for the past 23 years, has been elected to the Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice (LSRVNA) Board of Directors. Woodcrest Village, located in New London, is a residential facility providing assisted living, respite care, and memory care for seniors.

Linda moved to New London in 1979. In the early '80s she worked as a nurse at LSRVNA (then the Kearsarge VNA). Seeing the needs of area seniors inspired Linda to establish assisted living facilities as a living option for aging individuals. With Woodcrest Village firmly established, Brenner purchased and renovated Summerhill in 2004, an assisted living facility in Peterborough which she currently oversees.

Linda Brenner, LSRVNA's new trustee.

An active member of the community serving in leadership positions for many area civic and non-profit organizations, LSRVNA is proud to welcome its newest trustee.

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