

Board Candidates

Betty McDonald Allison, Lewisville, NC

Betty became interested in the American chestnut tree when chestnut stumps were found on property her family purchased. She has had a lifetime love of biology, and the outdoors.

After earning a BS in Zoology from UNC-CH, she worked as a chemist, and as a System Engineer for IBM. While raising a family she became a volunteer with many organizations including serving as Board Chair of the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern NC, and the Greenfield Academy (Wilson, NC) as well as many years of "PTAs" and "Team Moms". She was a Girl Scout Leader for 8 years while also serving on the GS Council Board(s) in NC and committee member of the four GS Council Realignment (merger) committee.

Betty and her husband John Allison, have three adult children. They planted their first American Chestnut Foundation seeds and saplings in the 1990s. They also have honeybees and fruit trees.

Mandy Adler Cromwell, Groton, MA

Mandy is a director of preclinical at Vertex Cell and Genetic Therapies, a Boston area biotechnology company working to develop a cure for type 1 diabetes. She holds an undergraduate degree in biology from Stetson University and a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and has over 25 year of experience working in R and D in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. She is a longtime resident of Groton, MA and a member of the Nashua River Watershed Association, a local conservation organization. Avid cyclists, she and her husband Duane are also active volunteers with the Friends of the Nashua River Rail Trail.