

Anna Sproul-Latimer Bio



Anna is a founding partner and president of Neon Literary, a literary agency with offices in New York and DC. Over the course of her many years in book publishing, she has sold multiple New York Times bestsellers, major book-to-film deals, and foreign translations in more than 50 languages.

Anna believes that there's no more powerful tool for social change than a beautiful story. It's why she works in publishing; it's also why she dedicates most of her TACF volunteer work to promotion and outreach, spreading the story of the American chestnut across the country and world. Projects she's spearheaded in her first year and a half as a volunteer include:

*Successfully pitching Congressional Cemetery, a major historic landmark and events venue in DC, to host the city's first big American chestnut festival this October 23: an event she is now underway planning for TACF. (Know any businesses that might want to sponsor it or sell things there?!)

*Establishing a social media presence for TACF's Virginia chapter on Facebook and Instagram, posting substantive content to the latter daily and recruiting several new VATACF members from younger online audiences

*Working with a jeweler friend to produce the first line of chestnut leaf fine jewelry--pendants, earrings, cufflinks, and money clips--which she intends to sell independently or through VATACF as a fundraising tool for the organization.

*After visiting the amazing collection of 14 mature, blight-free American chestnut specimens (plus dozens of smaller offspring) at Tervuren Arboretum in Belgium last spring, introducing the forestry team there to Jared Westbrook at TACF, convincing the Belgians to send live clippings to Dr. Westbrook's genotyping lab in Blacksburg. (The team at Tervuren is just as excited to get genetic information on these trees as we are, and they're now interested in collaborating with TACF in many other ways as well)

In addition to the above, Anna has worked multiple planting and weeding days at Sky Meadows. She has also attended the NE-1833 meeting and Lesesne State Forest and spent full days working with other volunteers in the field at Banshee-Reeks, Blandy, and the Matthews State Forest in Galax.

Prior to founding Neon Literary, Anna spent nearly 15 years as an agent, foreign rights director, and development editor at DC's Ross Yoon Agency. A graduate of Columbia University (B.A., English) and Oxford (Master's, English), she lives with her husband and three children in Arlington, VA.