

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Emily K. Grandstaff  
434.982.2932 / egrandstaff@virginia.edu

“The book’s strengths are many: it’s a tale of place, a tale of people, a tale of activism, and a tale of inspiration. The story of High Rock and the Greenbelt has been a template for citizen involvement and conservation not only in New York City, but throughout the nation. This book shows us the way.”

—**Kathleen Vorwick, President, The Greenbelt Conservancy**

## **HIGH ROCK AND THE GREENBELT** Renowned Author and Conservationist Charles Little Offers an Updated Edition of a Classic

In 1976, the influential journalist and National Geographic editor John G. Mitchell published *High Rock: A Natural and Unnatural History* calling for the preservation of one of New York’s remaining natural areas. The book helped to save a beloved tract of land—a Girl Scout camp known as High Rock—from becoming the roadbed for a major highway. This important parcel jumpstarted a modern conservation movement in the city and led to the creation of the Staten Island Greenbelt—a congeries of natural landscapes adjacent to High Rock that now links together more than 2,800 acres of preserved open space, more than three times the size of Central Park’s 843 acres.

Now, with **HIGH ROCK AND THE GREENBELT (October 2011; distributed for the Center for American Places)**, author and conservationist Charles Little has made this classic available once again. Featuring new material including Little’s historical update on High Rock and the Greenbelt today, the book also includes the addition of Fresh Kills Park and its 2,200 acres; a gallery of brilliant photographs by Dorothy Reilly, of the Staten Island Greenbelt Foundation; a discussion of the future of the Greenbelt by land-conservation leaders and city officials; and a directory of resources and places by historian Michael C. Twomey, of the College of Staten Island.

Serving as an important guide to the environmental history and creation of New York City’s largest park, **HIGH ROCK AND THE GREENBELT** is a book to be referred to time and again for the inspiration, still needed, to save the priceless heritage of open space in America’s towns and cities.

**John G. Mitchell (1932–2007)** was a distinguished editor, journalist, and writer. Over many decades, he was a science editor for *Newsweek* and the first to cover environmental history there, the editor-in-chief of Sierra Club Books, a field editor for *Audubon*, and the environmental editor of *National Geographic*. He is the author of hundreds of magazine articles and eight books, among them *The Hunt*, *The Man Who Would Dam the Amazon and Other Accounts from Afield*, and *Dispatches from the Deep Woods*.

**Charles E. Little**, who held senior positions at the Conservation Foundation, the Natural Resources Policy Research at the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress, and American Land Forum, is the author of fifteen acclaimed books, among them *The Encyclopedia of Environmental Studies*, Second Edition, *The Dying of the Trees: The Pandemic in America's Forest*, *Discover America: The Smithsonian Book of the National Parks*, *Greenways for America*, and *Hope for the Land*.

October 2011 / 180 pages

7 x 9, 37 color photos and 23 original drawings

\$34.95 S Cloth ISBN 978-1-935195-20-7