



Chelsey Harris
chelsey.harris@umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A new way to face climate change from renowned author John Hanson Mitchell

Boston, MA—In 2022, the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) determined that climate change is rapidly approaching a point of no return. Dramatic fluctuations in temperature and the increasing frequency of climate-related disasters are being felt on a global scale. People don’t just feel overwhelmed—they are consumed by a sense of paralytic dread. It is a feeling with which John Hanson Mitchell, a staunch naturalist and an avid gardener, has become all too familiar.

Hanson Mitchell, author of *The Scratch Flat Chronicles*, whose book *Ceremonial Time* was named an Editors’ Choice by the *New York Times* Book Review, has now channeled his frustrations with climate change into expanding his garden—a new path forward in protest and appreciation.

At a time when many feel lost, Hanson Mitchell, in his new book *The Garden at the End of Time*, coming this May from the University of Massachusetts Press, presents a unique approach to climate change. After reading Voltaire’s *Candide*, Hanson Mitchell was moved by the author’s famous aphorism, “we must cultivate our garden.” Inspired by the fictional sanctuary in the novel, whenever Hanson Mitchell read about a new climate disaster, he planted another rose bush.

“Having spent more than fifty years trying to do something about the ongoing destruction of nature, apparently to no avail, I took Voltaire at his word and planted a garden,” Hanson Mitchell recounts in his book. The continual additions to his garden aren’t simply a therapeutic act, but also a physical counter to climate change. By cultivating everything from herbaceous plants to trees, Hanson Mitchell combats rising carbon dioxide levels.

Through sharing his practices and experiences, Hanson Mitchell supplies readers with an option to create their own sanctuary, while fighting against climate change and their own anxieties. Blending myth and history, science and literature, personal observations and global reporting, Hanson Mitchell crafts an enchanting story ripe with wit and wisdom. He offers readers hope as he paves a way to reconnect with nature while fighting carbon consumption.

As author Douglas W. Tallamy puts it, “How do environmental anxiety, Voltaire, *Candide*, religion, and gardens as ecological and spiritual sanctuaries intersect with climate change and world decay? John Hanson Mitchell reflects on this and much more in...an entertaining read unlike anything else in this field.”

To request a review copy or an interview with the author, please contact Chelsey Harris, University of Massachusetts Press Marketing & Sales Manager, at chelsey.harris@umass.edu.

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