



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

3990 West Lakeshore Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4684
(225) 578-8282
www.lsupress.org

BOOK NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenny Keegan

jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu / 225.578.6453

New Book Navigates the Curves and Rapids of America's Rivers

"Every piece of water has a tale to tell," says author Oliver Houck

Baton Rouge—American rivers are among the most diverse and challenging in the world, and for many the excitement and escape they offer develops into a lifelong pursuit. In

Downstream Toward Home: A Book of Rivers, to be published by LSU Press in October 2014, Oliver A. Houck recounts his six decades exploring America's waterways, from unnamed creeks and Louisiana swamps to the rivers of western canyons and the Alaskan tundra.

This engaging travelogue leads readers down over thirty-two rivers found across the country. Along the way Houck provides quiet observations as he finds footprints of red wolves on a sandbank or paddles through an aqueous forest of cypress trees. Collectively, these moments of adventure and introspection reveal his distinct and extraordinary vision of the national landscape.

From the thrill of approaching rapids to the peace of resting on a shoal, Houck's narrative draws from history and personal experience subtly to remind us how each body of water plays an outsized role in its surrounding environment. At once a journal, a primer, and a guide, *Downstream Toward Home* is an invitation to create our own experiences on America's rivers.

A law professor at Tulane University in New Orleans, **Oliver A. Houck** has been involved in river conservation throughout his life, beginning as general counsel to the National Wildlife Federation in the early 1970s. He has served on litigation boards of the Environmental Defense Fund and Defenders of Wildlife, and several committees of the National Academy of Sciences. Named the Louisiana Conservationist of the Year, *Gambit* magazine's New Orleanian of the Year, and Tulane University's Distinguished Teacher of the Year, Houck has also received two National Educational Press Association awards for children's literature.

October 2014

256 pages, 5.5 x 8.5

978-0-8071-5745-9

Cloth \$35.00, ebook available

Travel / Environmental Studies

To request a review copy or set up an author interview, please contact Jenny Keegan at jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu.

###