CONTENTS

ROOTS, NUTS, AND BRANCHES

Looking for Hickories: Rediscovering the Virtues of an American Icon 3
Forgotten Fossils from a Local World 8
Trees Can Lead You Home 14
The Best Wild Fruit You Never Tasted 20
Osage Orange: The Tree That Won the Midwest 25
Sassafras: The Savor (and Savior) of Neglected Places 31

REDISCOVERIES AND REDEPLOYMENTS

All This and Heaven, Too 37
In Land Trusts We Trust 63
In Nature, the Straight Line Leads to Perdition 73
Ticked Off by Guineas 81

CARETAKERS AND CHARACTERS

Streets, Trees, and a Rare Engineer Who Loves Them Both 89
From Local Acorns, Mighty Oaks (and Gorgeous Guitars) Grow 98
The New Ciderhouse Rules 105
“Trees” for Sale 109
Contents viii

Forgotten Waters

A Blessing Beside and Beneath Me 115
Another Bend in the River 119

Winter, Death, and Other Country Pleasures

Death of a Small Town Salesman 137
Understanding Winter 143
What’s Right about the Night 150
It’s True—You May Already Be a Winner 153

VIII Contents