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For Immediate Release

Enchanting Garden-Variety Reads for Kids
Favorites from the Director of the Chicago Flower & Garden Show

CHICAGO (July 24, 2017) – Put the e-devices away and play – and read – in the garden! There’s nothing like a good children’s book and gardening with your kids to connect with nature and help youngsters gain important life lessons.

“There’s a connection between good books and great gardens, whether it’s a tea party in *Alice in Wonderland*, poppies along the Yellow Brick Road in *The Wizard of Oz* or Hogwarts greenhouses in *Harry Potter*,” says Tony Abruscato, director of the [Chicago Flower & Garden Show](#). “Most adults will remember books that were important in their childhood and helped shaped their outlook on life.”

Abruscato’s favorite?

“*The Giving Tree*, by Shel Silverstein,” he says, “because my dad was an arborist and the book was meaningful to my family.”

To engage children in discovering the joys of plants, flowers *and* reading, Abruscato and his team are partnering with [Bernie’s Book Bank](#) to present “FLOWERTALES: Every Garden Has a Story to Tell,” the 2018 Chicago Flower & Garden Show from March 14-18 at [Navy Pier](#). During the show, the popular Kids Activity Garden will transform interactive play, discovery and learning into a “secret garden,” where a childhood love of plants can grow and blossom.

More of Abruscato’s garden variety picks for kids’ summer reads include:

- *How Groundhog’s Garden Grew*, by Lynne Cherry
- *On Meadowview Street*, by Henry Cole

- more -

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- *Planting a Rainbow*, by Lois Ehlert
- *Garbage Helps Our Garden Grow: A Compost Story*, by Linda Glaser and Shelley Rotner
- *Miss Maple's Seeds*, by Allison Jay
- *Butterflies in the Garden*, by Carol Lerner
- *One Love*, by Cedella Marley
- *The Earth Book*, by Todd Parr
- *Let's Grow Things*, a Rand-McNally book
- *Rose's Garden*, by Peter H. Reynolds
- *The Gardener*, by Sarah Stewart and David Small

For year-round, good-gardening information, show schedules, travel information, individual and group advance ticket discounts, and much more, visit www.chicagoflower.com and subscribe to the show's year-round e-newsletter. The Chicago Flower & Garden Show is easily found on all social media sites by searching "chicagoflower."

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Flower Show Productions, Inc. is the production company for the annual Chicago Flower & Garden Show and for grand-scale public events that celebrate sustainable living and eco-friendly lifestyles. The company provides year-round messaging, education and information about the benefits of earth-friendly choices to yards, neighborhoods, communities and the planet. Future show dates are Wednesday, March 14 through Sunday, March 18, 2018. The "Evening in Bloom" show preview benefitting area charity organizations is March 13, 2018. For year-round inspiration and great ideas, please visit www.chicagoflower.com, and find the show on Facebook at www.facebook.com/chicagoflower and Twitter @ChicagoFlower.

 **Do Green. Do Good.** Kindly consider the environment before printing.

Editors, please note: Video and photos from the 2017 Chicago Flower & Garden Show – as well as news releases, story leads and feature profiles supporting the 2018 Chicago Flower & Garden Show – are available for download and use. Visit the press tab regularly at www.chicagoflower.com for information, updated frequently throughout the year. Contact the press representative on this release for additional information, including customizable stories and year-round story leads, interviews, show press passes, celebrity show presenter schedules, and travel information for national and international reporters.

Caption follows photo below.

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Get out and garden – and read! – with your kids this summer. “Reading and gardening foster a life-long appreciation of books and plants – and help cultivate the next generation of gardener,” says Tony Abruscato, director of the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, March 14-18, 2018 at Navy Pier. *(Photo courtesy Chicago Flower & Garden Show)*