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THREE BOOKS RECEIVE 2009 GROWING GOOD KIDS – EXCELLENCE IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AWARD

Alexandria, VA (July 28, 2009) Three children's books received the 2009 "Growing Good Kids – Excellence in Children's Literature Award" on July 24 at a ceremony held during the American Horticultural Society's 2009 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, hosted by the Cleveland Botanical Garden in Ohio. This award program recognizes children's books that effectively promote an appreciation for gardening, plants, and the environment.

This year's winners, selected from books published in 2008, are:

- ***The Apple-Pip Princes*** by Jane Ray (Candlewick Press)
- ***Big Yellow Sunflower*** by Frances Barry (Candlewick Press)
- ***Flip, Float, Fly – Seeds on the Move*** by JoAnn Early Macken and illustrated by Pam Papparone (Holiday House)

“This collection of plant-themed picture books are wonderfully engaging, novel and will draw in a wide audience of young readers,” says Randy Seagraves, national curriculum coordinator for the National Junior Master Gardeners Program, which jointly administers the award program with the American Horticultural Society. “From unfolding a larger-than-life sunflower, to following seeds' travels in poetry, to becoming lost in a barren kingdom while it is transformed by the gift of a single precious seed, these diverse titles exemplify excellence in children's literature,” he adds.

Award nominations for books published in 2009 will be accepted beginning August 1, 2009, and must be received by April 23, 2010. For more information about the "Growing Good Kids" book award program and for images of the winning book covers, visit <http://www.jmgkids.us>; or contact Randy Seagraves at (979) 845-8565 or seagraves@tamu.edu.

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The American Horticultural Society (AHS), founded in 1922, is an educational, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that recognizes and promotes excellence in American horticulture. One of the oldest and most prestigious gardening organizations, AHS is dedicated to **making America a nation of gardeners, a land of gardens**. Its mission is to open the eyes of all Americans to the vital connection between people and plants, to inspire all Americans to become responsible caretakers of the Earth, to celebrate America's diversity through the art and science of horticulture; and to lead this effort by sharing the Society's unique national resources with all Americans.