

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Heather Williams
Phone: (843) 971-6722
Email: heather@arbordalepublishing.com

Big News for *Bat Count!*

Mount Pleasant, SC (April 16, 2018) -- Earlier today, 15° Laboratory announced that *Bat Count: A Citizen Science Story* is this year's winner of the Giverny Award.

The Giverny Book Award is given annually to a children's science picture book that teaches the reader at least one important scientific principle through a story. The award is named after the French village that served as inspiration for impressionist paintings and that connection between science and art is celebrated.

When Anna Forrester wrote *Bat Count*, she was inspired by nature around her family farm. Similar to the family in the story, her family joined a citizen science project counting bats that visited the farm each summer. *Bat Count* is told through the eyes of a young girl whose family is preparing for their annual evening searching the sky as the bats leave the barn. She muses on the days before her twin brothers when the barn was filled with bats, but the noticeable decline inspired the family to help scientists by counting the visiting bats. Jojo and readers learn about maternity roosts, white-nose syndrome, and the declining bat population throughout the story.

Bat Count is Forrester's debut picture book. As a former teacher and landscape architect, it was a natural fit for her to seamlessly incorporate her love for nature into a fictional yet informational story. For Forrester, this story is very personal as her family participates in a similar program on their family farm.

Detwiler added expansive skies and a sense of family togetherness through her artwork. *Bat Count* is her seventh book with Arbordale and each book is unique in style and medium. Detwiler has found joy in books and always loved beautiful illustrations.

This is the second honor for *Bat Count* which was listed in the Cooperative Children's Book Center's Choices 2018 list earlier this year. The book is available in hardcover; paperback; ebook; and dual-language, interactive ebook as well as Spanish paperback; ebook; and dual-language, interactive ebook from independent booksellers, online retailers, and arbordalepublishing.com.