

# Cooper Young Goes Native

By Kim Halyak

**T**he 3rd Annual Cooper Young Garden Walk is May 19-20, 2018, from 9am to 5pm. It presents visitors an opportunity to take a peek in over 75 imaginative urban gardens. Visitors will see chic design, edibles, bees, chickens, and creative use of recycled materials, not to mention lots of native plants.

This year's theme is "Cooper Young Goes Native". Come hear noted speaker, Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home* and *The Living Landscape* explain how to include great natives into the home garden. See our whole neighborhood become an outdoor Wildlife Garden. Walk our Level 3 Certified Arboretum, hear master gardeners discuss best native plants, and see labeled native pollinator plantings throughout the neighborhood. Educational booths include: Ask-A-Master Gardener, Urban Forestry, TN Native Plant Society, Nonconnah Creek Conservancy, Storm Water Dept., Clean Memphis, Urban Bike Food Ministry, and TN Federation of Garden Clubs.

On Saturday, from 9-10 a.m. Dr. Doug Tallamy, will present the keynote talk, *Restoring Nature's Relationships at Home*. On Sunday at 4-5 p.m., Chris Cosby, local horticulturist, will speak on the topic, "Using Specific Native Plants for Specific Places." Both presentations will be at 1000 S. Cooper in the First Congo Sanctuary. These noted speakers will inspire visitors to rethink their landscape philosophy and

find unique ways to include native plants in the urban setting.

Another educational opportunity comes with a visit to the historic Peabody Elementary School Garden. Here students will present their garden and showcase some creative garden-inspired artwork, including student-built bug hotels. The Peabody Elementary Garden Club created the educational posters on native plants and pollinators found throughout the walk.

Garden Vendors will be available and there is a raffle for a stylish, wooden raised bed built by Michael Penn.

With the gardens and an eclectic business district within walking distance of each other, visitors can easily stop for breakfast, lunch, dinner or go shopping during their tour. Many businesses are offering discounts and dining specials for the occasion.

Getting around the Garden Walk is easy: you can walk, bike, or take a shuttle. A guided bike tour is available Saturday, May 19 at 10:30am, led by Urban Bike Food Ministry. Interested riders should meet at the bike arches at 1000 S. Cooper at 10:15. Please wear a helmet.

This year, there are designated garden routes that highlight specific themes. Visitors can pick a theme to follow or visit as many gardens as they want during the two-day event. Themes include:



- **Edibles** – check out food growing, compost, chickens, bees, and native plants.
- **Elegant** – look for sculptured boxwoods, beautiful flowers and romantic settings on this tour.
- **Eclectic** – with lots of whimsical garden décor mixed with funky plantings, this is a one-of-a-kind experience.
- **Short on Time** – 20+ showcase places that exemplify the various types of gardens on the tour.

This is a relatively new Memphis event, celebrates its third year, and is a memorable way to expand your adventures during Memphis in May

For complete information, along with garden photos and ticket information, visit: <https://cygardenwalk.eventsmart.com>



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