

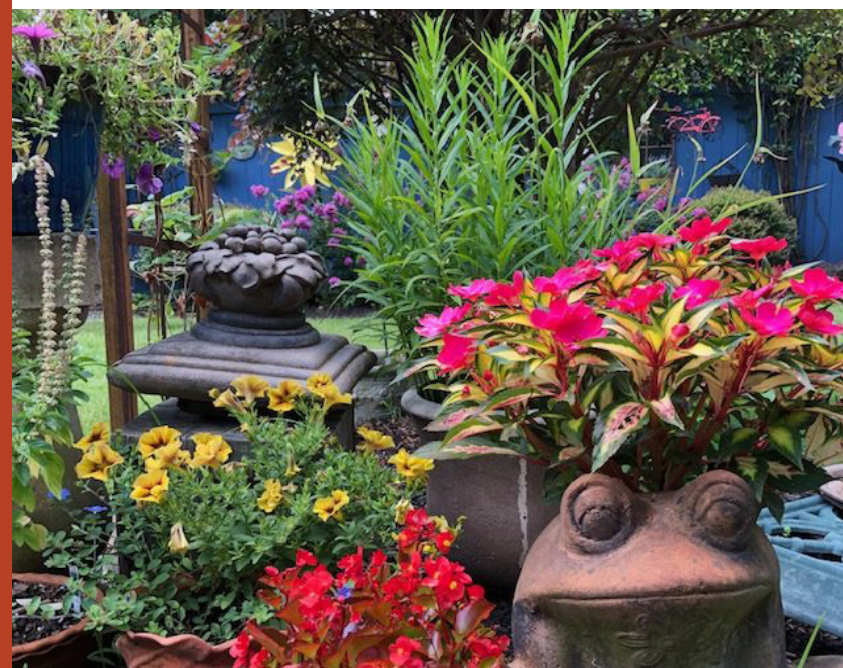
# 7TH ANNUAL COOPER YOUNG GARDEN WALK

The 7th annual Cooper Young Garden Walk (CYGW) will kick-off on Friday night, May 20th at 6:00 pm with a presentation by HGTV Star, Carmeon Hamilton, who will speak about “The Magic of Houseplants” at Memphis Botanic Gardens. The touring portion of the CYGW takes place Saturday, May 21st through Sunday, May 22nd. 9-4 pm. This year’s theme is “Hats On to Gardeners.” Garden hosts and visitors are encouraged to decorate and wear a hat that reflects the joy they feel spending time looking at nature’s bounty. Prizes will be awarded for the most stylish, most creative, and most garden-themed.

The Cooper-Young Garden Walk combines the fun side of outdoor living with the more serious themes of native plants, sustainability, and bringing back our pollinators. The CYGW offers great ideas for small urban spaces. Nearly a hundred homes will be showing off their gardens. In addition to beautiful and creative plantings, the neighborhood has a variety of interests ranging from bee-keeping to chickens; composting to hydroponics; flowers to vegetables. We also show off our outdoor living spaces: stand-alone studios, gazebos, pergolas, screen porches, and the ubiquitous garden shed.

The weekend has a festival feel with vendor booths, music, art, hands-on learning, and expert advice. Ticket holders receive discounts at local restaurants to enhance their visit to the neighborhood and give themselves a chance to build their energy for more garden views. This year, a shuttle bus will be available courtesy of Backbeat Tours. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.cooperyounggardenwalk.org> or on the day of the event at the ticket booth located at the intersection of Cooper Street and Young Avenue. Early bird tickets cost \$20 for the two-day event.

Read about a few of our CYGW participants and why they love to garden and want to be part of the Cooper Young Garden Walk.



## COOPER YOUNG GARDENERS



### BEOLA HICKS- AGE 98 GARDENING MY WHOLE LIFE

At 98 years old, Beola Hicks has seen a lot of life, and flowers have always been in that picture. She began gardening as a child in southern Alabama until a tornado in 1932 devastated her small Cox Station community. She moved to Chicago and had the “prettiest garden on the block” for 40 years. In 1975 she came to Cooper Young and was an organizing member of the Cooper Young Community Association.

Beola’s front yard garden is terraced with rows of colorful annuals and perennials. She has a bottle tree and a banana tree; jasmine vines and potted ferns. No one walks by without stopping. It is the social aspect of gardening that she loves the most. She grows such a variety of flowers and vegetables that people are always bringing her something new to add. During previous

Cooper Young Garden Walks conversations about flowers have led to having tea, talking about cooking, and moving on to how to change the world.

Something she would really like to change is the loss of her cucumbers to the backyard squirrels. Other than that, she would like people to take each other at face value. Show respect. Be friendly. Make your garden ground zero for promoting the golden rule. It has worked for her for nearly a hundred years.



### TERRY & CYNTHIA LAWRENCE - AGES 64, GARDENING FOR 22+YRS

Terry and Cynthia Lawrence make a great gardening team. He jokes that, “She’s the brains and I’m the brawn,” but they love working side by side to create a beautiful personalized space. They have been honing their gardening skills in Cooper Young for the last 22 years. With roots in the Mississippi Delta, they had to shift from thinking of the garden as the place where food is produced to the urban, or British, the idea of a garden as the growing things surrounding your home. Terry definitely prefers lawn care to shelling peas. He says that working in his garden is when he is most relaxed, and there’s the bonus of producing something nice to look at.

Cynthia is the planner in the family. She sketches planting areas, chooses the most suitable flowers, and plants them in the beds that Terry prepares.

Their flowers complement one of the larger lawns in our urban landscape. Among other plants, the garden features two mature camellias, a white and a red, that bloom profusely.

Although they have enjoyed being Cooper Young Garden Walk ticket holders, this will be their first year to show off their garden. Terry, a retired Army vet, has recently retired from a career at AutoZone, giving him more time for yard work. He looks to the Cooper Young Garden Walk to inspire more neighbors to realize that people love looking at their gardens. His philosophy is that if you create a space that is pleasing to you, it will likely be pleasing to other people.



## DEMETRIUS BOYLAND - LATE 40'S GARDENING FOR 20 YEARS

Demetrius Boyland moved from Denver, Colorado to Cooper-Young 18 years ago. She was looking for a walkable community with access to restaurants, shopping, and entertainment. In addition to those great amenities, she found herself moving into a home with a well-established and much-loved garden. After a year or two of working on her own to edit, prune, and cut back plants she couldn't identify, she sought help by joining a Master Gardener's class.

Over time, she has experimented with perennials and annuals to support her love of color. The lesson she has learned is to plant where the flowers want to grow. Sunlight, shade, and soil should dictate what goes where. Demetrius says, "Learn to sit with your environment and let it tell you what it wants." Currently, her garden wants shrubs with texture and plants in every shade of green imaginable.

She is looking forward to her fifth year on the Cooper Young Garden Walk. Besides her beautiful array of color and texture, Demetrius treasures the exotic palm tree she inherited from the former owner and has kept it alive for 18 years. She enjoys seeing what other people love about their gardens; what they are excited about and willing to share. In fact, she believes that at the core of the community is the willingness of neighbors to maintain the beauty of the neighborhood by working together to keep the gardens fresh and the streets and sidewalks free of trash. The Cooper Young Garden Walk is the perfect vehicle to move everyone in that direction.



## CHRISTOPHER HARRIS - AGE 49 GARDENING SINCE AGE OF 10 WITH MY GRANDMOTHER

Christopher Harris says, "Go big, or go home!" Small spaces are no place for small thinking. Perhaps the most unique aspect of Cooper Young gardens is the amount of creativity that goes into building beauty in tiny spaces under large shade trees. After moving from East Memphis to Cooper Young six years ago, Christopher had to switch gears after having a yard with infinite sunshine. Through trial and error, he has discovered the flowers and shrubs that grow best in his space and found the plants that he is most passionate about – hostas. After years of cultivating and dividing, Christopher now has a border of 129 hostas, and he intends to add more.

An enthusiastic gardener since childhood, Christopher helped his grandmother with her garden, and never lost his willingness to help others. He has become the de facto gardener for the Air B&B next door to his home, and he loves to share his gardening knowledge. In fact, what he loves most about the Cooper Young Garden Walk is the sharing of information. He loves to hear the "oohs and ahs" and "how did you do that?" He also enjoys making the same exclamations at his neighbors' gardens. This is Christopher's fourth year participating in the Garden Walk.

When asked for gardening advice, he says "have fun with it." Christopher enjoys incorporating objects found on the curb into his landscape. Every garden is unique to the space available, the soil, and the ratio of sunshine and shade. It's the individual creative spirit that brings all the parts to life.

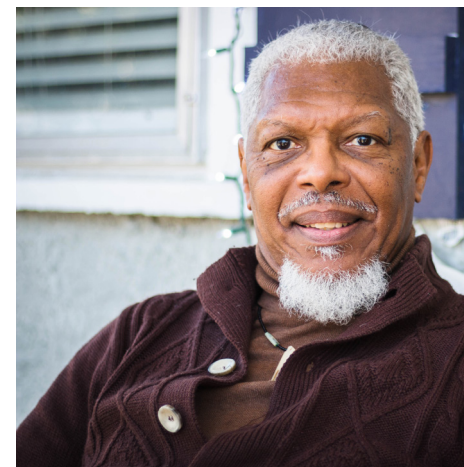


## MARY HOLMAN - AGE 80 GARDENING MY WHOLE LIFE

When Mary Holman moved to Cooper Young in 1977, she planted monkey grass given to her by a family member. Forty-four years later, that monkey grass is still going strong, and so is she. Now, of course, her garden includes colorful annuals, spring bulbs, herbs, and the occasional vegetable. Mary's love of gardening began in childhood when she helped her mother plant and care for the vegetable garden. At that time, south Memphis was still rural enough to contain vegetable gardens large enough to feed families, host small farm animals, and support traditional chores like making lye soap.

Now that Mary's six children are productive adults, she loves spending time relaxing in her garden. Last year, she put together an outdoor room, complete with carpet, to sit and enjoy the forty-plus years spent creating a space that is unique to her, yet influenced by family and friends who have shared their plants and stories. Mary loves watching the dog walkers from her porch swing and sharing gardening information with neighbors who stop by to admire her garden.

This will be Mary's first year to participate in the Cooper Young Garden Walk Her corner house is sure to capture a lot of attention. She is especially proud of how well her block is kept up, and how helpful her neighbors are in keeping everything looking good. During the child-rearing years, Mary was very busy with school and community work that mostly involved her family. Now, she's ready to relax and smell the roses.



## JOE CALHOUN - AGE 72 GARDENING FOR 30 YEARS

Joe Calhoun credits HGTV for sparking his interest in gardening and inspiring him to express his personality through the curb appeal of his home. "Your front yard is the same as a first impression," he says. His front porch and garden are a colorful blend of tried and true plants and decorative found objects.

Before moving to Cooper Young 16 years ago, Joe lived in Annesdale-Snowden. His current garden is the reverse of that one – more room in the back, and a smaller space upfront. Joe calls his front porch and garden "quirky and eclectic." His favorite flower to grow is the begonia. Begonias provide bright colors and profuse blooms. They thrive in this environment and take little time to fill up a large pot. In his old neighborhood, there was once a project to have everyone on the street plant red flowers. Joe would love to see a Cooper Young street with a consistent streak of color.

This is Joe's third year participating in the garden walk. He encourages people to stay long enough in each garden to share their ideas. He likes to promote a festive atmosphere, the feeling of an "event." Although he enjoys the diversity and variety of the neighborhood gardens, he sees maintaining a uniform standard of curb appeal as a way to elevate the neighborhood. In that spirit, he has done some guerilla gardening in the past, cutting the grass in vacant lots and staging the porches of vacant houses to help get the neighborhood ready for the garden walk.

# THE DUO BEHIND THE COOPER-YOUNG FESTIVAL AND GARDEN CLUB



**KIM HALYAK- AGE 65  
FOUNDER, COOPER YOUNG GARDEN CLUB**

Kim was born in Pittsburgh, Pa but has lived in Memphis for forty years. Her love of gardening grew when her family moved to a 21 acre farm outside of Pittsburgh. The field size garden grew enough food to feed the family of nine. Apple trees, elderberries, blackberries were everywhere, along with poison ivy, which she regularly got with severe outbreaks.

After retiring from 34 years of teaching, Kim founded the Cooper-Young Garden Club, in 2015. The goals were to share garden knowledge, have fun, and beautify our neighborhood. The first garden walk was held May 2016 to raise funds to beautify Cooper-Young. It grew from a seed planted when Kim visited the Buffalo Garden Walk, in upstate New York. Now in its 27th year, the Buffalo Garden Walk brings in 65,000 visitors and 5

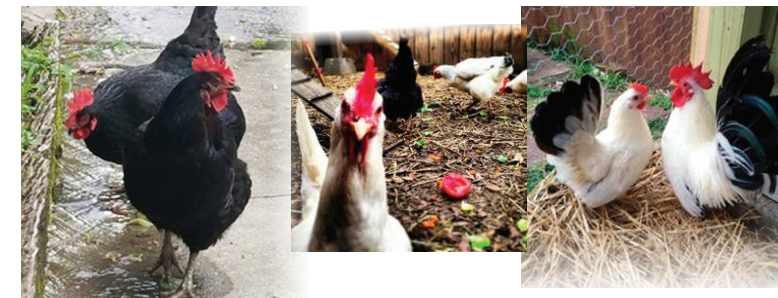
million dollars into the economy. It is both Kim and Sharron's vision to grow garden tourism across Memphis. In 2023, they plan to invite gardeners all across Memphis to show their gardens to visitors. "We want to celebrate the gardeners who make our neighborhoods beautiful. Let us know if you'd like to be involved. We need gardens, sponsors, graphic designers, and marketing talents to get this idea off and running."



**SHARRON JOHNSON- AGE 58  
COOPER-YOUNG FESTIVAL CO-CHAIR**

Sharron Johnson is a native Memphian that has made 58 orbits around the Sun, give or take a few leap years added to the mix. An avid defender of all things nature and a green thumb to boot. She began her love of plants as a preteen by helping her mom and grandma plant tomatoes and various blooming flowers. Her first solo planting was the proverbial sweet potato rooted in water which quickly morphed to the plant love affair. "I've been counting my time left on this 3rd rock from the Sun by the growing seasons that I'll be fortunate to have."

## COOPER - YOUNG 7TH ANNUAL GARDEN WALK MEMPHIS, TN



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