Tony Avent Biography

**SPOUSE**: Anita J. Avent

**EDUCATION**: B.S. NC State, Horticultural Science - 1978

**OCCUPATION**: Plantsman and Proprietor

**1986 to Present Day**

* Proprietor, Plant Delights Nursery, Inc., retail mail-order rare, unusual, and native perennial plants
* Proprietor, Juniper Level Botanical Garden (27,000 + unique plant accessions, as of 4/20/2021)
* International Plant Explorer (Mexico-1994; China-1996; Korea-1997; Argentina-2002; South Africa-2005; Thailand-2005; Taiwan-2008, Crete-2010; Bosnia-2012; Croatia-2012; Montenegro - 2012; Slovenia-2012; Vietnam-2005 + 68 domestic plant expeditions in the US since 1994)
* Hybridizer of Hostas, Rare Bulbs, Hardy Aroids
* Freelance Garden Writer
* International Garden Lecturer (837 lectures since 1987) as of 4/1/2021
* Plant Auctioneer
* 1978-1994
* Landscape Director, NC State Fairgrounds

**1985-1994**

* Volunteer Curator - Shade House, NC State Arboretum

**1987-1998**

* Weekly Garden Columnist - The News & Observer, Raleigh

**2012-2017**

* Monthly Garden Columnist - Walter Magazine, Raleigh

**ADDITIONAL**:

**2017**

* Current  Contributing Editor, Fine Gardening magazine

**2006-2010**

* Woody Plant Advisory Committee - JC Raulston Arboretum

**2004-2009**

* Advisory Committee - USDA-ARS Hardiness Zone Map Revision

**2001**

* Invited Participant at St. Louis Summit (Workshop on Linking Ecology and Horticulture to Prevent Plant Invasions)

**2001-2009**

* North Carolina Department of Agriculture Rare Plant Conservation Scientific Committee (Appointed 2001)

**2002-2008**

* Contributing Editor, Horticulture magazine

**AWARDS**:

* Don Shadow Award of Excellence, Southern Nursery Association - 2019
* Distinguished Alumni/ NC State University College of Ag and Life Sciences - 2018
* Millstream Award for Outstanding Gardens/ North American Rock Garden Society - 2017
* Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hosta Hybridizer Merit Award/ American Hosta Society - 2015
* Award of Merit – Perennial Plant Association - 2013
* J.C. Raulston Distinguished Leadership Award, NC State University - 2012
* Retail Award/ Perennial Plant Association - 2011
* Certificate of Recognition - Garden Writers of America - 2009
* Paul Eckes Jr. Commercial Award - Individual/ American Horticulture Society - 2002
* D.H. Copeland /NC Association of Nurserymen Award - 2002
* Robert Balentine Horticulture Award/ Southeastern Flower Show - 2001
* Marcel LePiniec Award / North American Rock Garden Society - 1999
* Nursery Innovator of the Month Award - GM Pro Magazine - 1998
* Outstanding Alumni Award/ NC State Dept. of Horticultural Science - 1997
* NC Nurserymen Award for Landscape/Beautification of NC State Fairgrounds 1990
* Outstanding Journalism Award / Men's Garden Club of America 1986, 1987, 1988
* Outstanding Senior, NC State Dept. of Horticulture - 1978

**MEDIA**:

* Almanac Gardener with Mike Gray (NC Public Television) - numerous since 1994
* Coastal Gardener with Dave Egbert (Network) - 2008
* Cultivating Life with Sean Conway, Aspidistra, Ferns (PBS) - 2006
* Cultivating Life with Sean Conway (PBS) - 2008
* Gardener’s Diary with Erica Glasener (HGTV) - winter 2002/3
* Gardener’s Journal with Kathy Renwald (HGTV) - 2002
* In The Garden with Bryce Lane (NC Public Television) - 2007
* Martha Stewart Living, Nursery Segment (HGTV) - February 2004
* Martha Stewart Living, Propagation Segment (HGTV) - February 2004
* Martha Stewart Living, Hardy Arailaceae Segment (HGTV) - February 2004
* Martha Stewart Living, Extreme Propagation (NBC) - February 2007
* Martha Stewart Living, New Plants (NBC) - March 2008
* Rebecca’s Garden with Rebecca Kolls (Hearst Broadcasting) - 1997
* The Winter Garden Series (HGTV) - 1999
* The Secret Garden Series (HGTV) - Spring 2001
* Beautiful Madness by James Dodson, 2006
* The Collector’s Garden Book by Ken Druse, 1996
* The Plant Hunter’s Garden by Bobby Ward, Fall 2004

**BOOKS FEATURED IN**:

* Heroes of Horticulture by Barbara Paul Robinson, 2018
* Beautiful Madness by James Dodson, 2006
* The Plant Hunter’s Garden by Bobby Ward, Fall 2004
* The Collector’s Garden Book by Ken Druse, 1996

**AUTHOR**:

* The Roots of My Obsession (one chapter) - Timber Press, 2012
* So You Want to Start a Nursery - Timber Press, 2003
* My Favorite Plant (one chapter) - compiled by Jamaica Kincaid, 199