Ron Amos

Where were you born/raised?
I was born and raised in Madison Wisconsin. I am the youngest of three brothers. My parents were microbiologists.

Education

I received my bachelor's degree in horticulture and masters degree in plant physiology. My graduate work was working on micropropagation of plants. Basically, developing protocols for large scale production of genetically identical plants from a group of undifferentiated cells.

Military Service
None

Career
After graduate school I was hired by a wholesale nursery in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin to develop a micropropagation lab to produce high value ornamental and fruit plant varieties. I oversaw all propagation which included seed and cutting propagation as fruit tree, shade tree and conifer grafting programs. In 2001 I purchased the nursery from the owner and expanded the nursery into a propagation nursery that produces starter plants for other nurseries to finish growing. All plants must be hardy to -20 degrees F. and are shipped to 26 states and Canada. After working at the nursery for 42 years I sold it in August 2024 and continue to act as a consultant.

How did you end up on the Central Coast?
My oldest son moved to San Luis Obispo five years ago to take a position as an Urban Planing professor at Cal Poly. My wife and I decided to move to San Luis Obispo to be close to our son, daughter in law and three grandchildren.

Hobbies / Interests
Bicycling, hiking, reading and juggling.

Notable accomplishments
I am most proud of my wife and I raising three happy sons. In the 1990's along with another horticulturist we started an associate degree program through Northeast Technical College in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The two of us taught night classes in all horticulture subjects and after ten years the program became a part of the College with a teaching staff, new building and teaching greenhouses. Other accomplishments were the successful breeding of insect resistant trees. Breeding a birch tree with red leaves and conifers seed lines that produce more compact growth to better fit in urban setting. Propagation techniques to reduce the introduction time of new high yielding cranberry hybrids from ten years to three.

Family

My wife Kris and I met in high school and were married in January between semesters our senior year in college. After graduate school we moved to Sturgeon Bay. Kris taught school for 31 years. Our oldest son is here in SLO, our middle son is a professor at Wichita State

University in Kansas and our youngest son works in marketing for Disney in Orlando, Florida. We have six grandchildren with one more on the way.