



# Profile

## June 2020

**Lois Girton**

### **Background**

#### *Strengths*

- Previous leadership experience
- Organizational skills
- Writing and editing experience
- Interest all types of peonies

#### *Weaknesses*

- Can become impatient when others don't meet expectations
- Can have more ideas than be done

#### *Interested Committees*

- Bulletin Committee
- Speakers Bureau
- Website Committee
- Other Committee (establishing reference gardens)

### **Skills and Expertise**

- Writing and editing experience
- Photography experience
- Has managed websites in the past
- Scientific knowledge (holds doctoral degree)
- Experience with Auctria
- Previous leadership experience
  - Charter president of hosta society
  - Former president of local garden club
  - 15 years on BOD of Iowa Arboretum
- Convention and symposium organizational experience
- Number of years giving presentations
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
  - History of peonies
  - Current classification of peonies based on DNA, etc.
  - Peony identification
  - Incorporating peonies into the landscape

### **Connections and Networking**

- Membership in other plant societies
  - Current co-chair of the scholarship committee for the American Conifer Society
- Membership in local gardens
  - Iowa Arboretum
  - The Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens
  - The Scott Arboretum
  - Winterthur
  - Linwood Gardens

### **Passion and Commitment**

- Interest in BOD
  - "I have become more involved with APS over the past several years, notably by co-chairing and hosting the 2019 convention and by contributing photos, articles, and editing to the bulletin. I've been informally asked to consider being on the board previously but did not feel that I had the time to do so before retirement.

Now seems like the right time to get more involved and to perhaps initiate some new programs, e.g. a public gardens program.”

- Motivation
  - I enjoy sharing knowledge about plants. Iowa used to be well-known for peonies and they grow well here but few people know all that much about them. (I am also motivated to document and preserve the Saunders peonies and information about his breeding program.)
- Time Commitment
  - Currently assisting with editing on bulletins
  - Several hours a week
  - Recently retired and has more time to help
- Aspirations
  - Assist with well-written and informative articles in on-time bulletins
  - Assist with information on the website
  - Increase involvement of non-board members on committees
  - Inclusion of abbreviated treasurer’s report in bulletins
  - Establishing regions within the APS with regional events
  - Reforming how Gold Medal winners are selected
  - Consider identifying display peony gardens throughout the country