

# Lamoine Conservation Commission Award for 2013

Lamoine Conservation Commission is pleased to give this year's Conservation Award to Iris and Gerald Simon.

As with many of us, the Simons came here on a vacation, liked what they saw and decided to call this area "home." Jerry, a native of Montana, is a retired veterinarian who practiced on Long Island, NY; in Belfast, ME; and in Ellsworth. Iris, raised in North Dakota, started her professional life as a classroom teacher. In this area, she has worked at M.A.Clark Florist, Harris Strong Gallery, and with the Health Link Program at the Maine Coast Memorial Hospital.

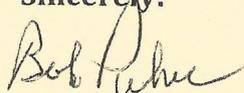
The Simons are avid gardeners. When the time came to purchase property in this area, they were advised to select Lamoine as it had good soil. They chose a plot of land on Partridge Cove Road, an early Lamoine subdivision created in the 1700's by French landowners. The Simons purchased one piece in 1976 and the adjacent piece in 1986. Jerry picked up his chainsaw to cut trees, had them milled locally and used them to build their first dwelling, a barn. A few years later Jerry built their present house, again with lumber from their land.

At Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, Iris often helped plan and run fund raising efforts. Frenchman Bay Conservancy asked her to help them with fund raising as well and soon asked her to be on their board. Now as chair of the board she oversees many projects to protect the water of Frenchman Bay and develop trails for public enjoyment.

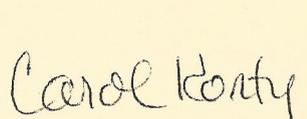
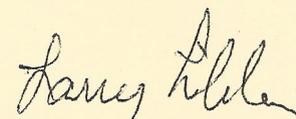
In 2009 the Simons made the decision to place 65 acres of their land under a conservation easement with Frenchman Bay Conservancy. As such it will forever foster a variety of native trees and follow sustainable harvesting practices which prohibit clear cutting and require maintaining at least three ages of tree growth. With the assistance of David Schick, the Simons developed a .91 mile trail on this land. The Simon Woods Trail is now open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, bird watching, and mushroom picking. When someone says, "Oh, no, there's a bear in my backyard," Iris recommends replying, "No, you're in the bear's backyard." The Simons hope the easement on their property will encourage others to spend more time out of doors. They said their motivation is to help Mainers realize the importance of preserving and protecting our precious forest and wildlife resources.

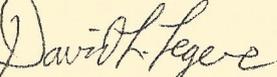
Thank you, Iris and Jerry, for living respectfully within your environment and sharing it and your many skills with our community.

Sincerely:

  
Bob Pulver, chair

  
Anne LaBossiere, secretary

   
Carol Korty      Larry Libby

  
David Legere

  
Nancy Pochan, alternate

  
Doug Stewart, alternate