
MORDECAI MATTERS

August 2000

About Erosion on Mordecai

Bill Pilling & John Cranmer,

Co-chairs, LEHYC Environmental Protection Committee

Awake! A wake! To Action! Mordecai is eroding! Since 1971, Mordecai has lost a substantial amount of its landmass. If we are to save Mordecai, steps must be taken soon. See the overlay on the reverse side.

Containing 67 acres, Mordecai Island is located immediately west of Beach Haven Borough, Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Mordecai insulates Liberty Thorofare from the Island Waterway, acting as a protective barrier.

The western edge of Mordecai has eroded at an alarming rate. The northern part of the Island has completely separated in two places, most recently in 1999. Causes are both natural and manmade. During storms, Mordecai is subject to severe erosion from high tides and wave action. Boats traveling at high speeds along the Inland Waterway exacerbate the problem.

What does this mean to *you*? Mordecai acts as a buffer to the many homes and other properties along Liberty Thorofare. Continued erosion of Mordecai will ultimately subject *your* home or property to severe wave action and increased flooding. It threatens *your* enjoyment of the natural habitats on Mordecai, including the incredible varieties of nesting and migrating birds. It results in the loss of shoreline vegetation, loss of near-Island eelgrass that acts as a nursery for young fish and increased sedimentation. Continued erosion threatens *your* enjoyment of the scenic views afforded by Mordecai. *Erosion affects you!*

ALO Wants to Know More

Joan Koons,

President, Alliance for a Living Ocean

Since 1993, the Alliance for a Living Ocean has given Eco-tours of a Barrier Island. Part of this program is a southern route where we turn right *(Continued on reverse side)*

PLEASE COME!!

You are invited to a public discussion
"MORDECAI MATTERS"
Erosion and Shorebird wildlife on Mordecai Island

Featuring Dr. Stewart Farrell & Steve Evert
Richard Stockton Coastal Research Center

Date: August 20, 2000

Time: 3:00 to 4:30 PM

Place: 2nd Floor, Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club,
Berkley Avenue, Beach Haven

Why *you* should care, Why *you* should come:

- Erosion on Mordecai will expose *your* home to relentless wave action and increased flooding.
- Erosion threatens *your* enjoyment of the enormous diversity of nesting & migrating birds on Mordecai.
- Erosion threatens *your* scenic views of Mordecai.

What Mordecai Means to Me

Gretchen Coyle,

LBI resident

A half-century is a long time. I have seen houses built; houses torn down only to be replaced by larger, fancier ones; the one traffic light increase to many; historic buildings razed; and the biggest bayside protective island that Beach Haven has, Mordecai Island, slowly erode away.

As a child in the fifties I sailed my Sneakbox out to Mordecai hunting for shells and elusive treasure. Picking wild flowers and fall heather was a favorite pastime along with scavenger and treasure hunts. I used to swim out to the Island in my shoes, then explore its boggy edges and sandy beach. I'm sure that hunters used it in the early part of our last century.

Liberty Thorofare was dredged in 1937 so boat traffic could go completely around the Island, not just enter and exit from the south end. Power and sailboats of all sizes, whether owned by local Beach Haven residents or cruising yachtsmen, enjoy the tranquility of Mordecai's east side. *(Continued on reverse side)*

ALO Wants to Know More *(Continued)* off of Bay Avenue, stopping at the Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club. Here we give its historical background. Proceeding down West Avenue, we discuss Mordecai Island, its environmental worth and its importance as a protection of Long Beach Island and the richness of its wildlife.

ALO looks forward to attending your informational meeting and sharing common interest in Mordecai.

What Mordecai Means to Me *(Continued)*

Luckily Mordecai was purchased by the Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club (thanks to the late Morton Wilson

and Franklin Berry's aunts). Rumor had it in the mid 1950's that the Island would be developed with a bridge and a number of houses, sort of like the High Bar Harbor area in Barnegat Light. Now no house will ever be built.

Unfortunately, Mordecai Island is washing away at an alarming rate. Soon our protection from bayside tidal surges due to bad storms and hurricanes will become a number of small islands. My husband, John, and I hope we can all join together, listen to the experts, and push for help from any governmental, private or non-profit agencies before Mordecai Island sinks into Little Egg Harbor Bay.

MORDECAI ISLAND

LEGEND

—————	1971
.....	1995

