
MORDECAI MATTERS

May 2001

LEHYC Trustees Approve Mordecai Land Trust

Bill Pilling

Co-Chair, LEHYC Environmental Protection Committee

On April 7, 2001, the Trustees of Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club approved the transfer of Mordecai Island to a Land Trust to be formed as a New Jersey non-profit corporation. The members at the annual meeting on Labor Day will be asked to approve the transfer. While LEHYC will continue to control the Land Trust by means of overlapping trustees, the proposal contemplates one trustee will be a representative of the Borough of Beach Haven and at least one trustee will be elected by the members of the Land Trust.

Why now? LEHYC has been the steward of Mordecai since the Island was donated to the Club in 1960. The gift was motivated by a desire to preserve Mordecai as open space. We now recognize that to preserve Mordecai from continued erosion, public support is needed. By forming the Land Trust, contributions can be solicited on a tax-deductible basis. The trustees of the Land Trust will have as their sole focus the preservation of Mordecai. In addition, transfer of Mordecai to a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization is likely to facilitate the approval of any erosion project.

A meeting of LEHYC members is scheduled for Sunday, July 15th at 4:00 PM to discuss this proposal.

Dates to Remember:

- **Sunday, July 15, 2001 from 4-5:00 PM:** LEHYC Member meeting to discuss Mordecai Land Trust
- **Sunday, August 19, 2001 from 3-4:00:** Meeting open to the Public, "Mordecai Matters: An Update."



Mordecai clean-up crew: Henry Gilbert, Lydia Zimmerman-Crumbaugh (in ball cap), Hannah Buchan (in front of Lydia), and Leah McGlynn.

Mordecai Clean-up

Brian McGlynn

Member, LEHYC Environmental Protection Committee

A plastic dinosaur, head of a duck decoy, full cans of Budweiser, tires, styrofoam blocks from crab traps, and lots and lots of bottles and cans were some of things we found on Mordecai during a clean-up on Saturday, April 28th.

A sub-committee chaired by Chuck Maschal and Brian McGlynn organized this cleanup in conjunction with ALO's annual sprucing up of LBI. The date was selected after consultation with Steve Evert of the Richard Stockton Coastal Research Center so as to not unduly interfere with the spring nesting of the many birds found on Mordecai.

The clean-up crew included Commodore Stokes Carrigan, Jeff Wells, Ted Gilbert and his son Henry, Kevin McGlynn and whaler, Ed McGlynn and CAT, Frank

continued on reverse side



Measuring Erosion on Mordecai

Phil Flagler

Member, LEHYC Environmental Protection Committee

During the fall of 1999, John Schwendeman and John Walton took the first steps in a long-term program to measure the extent of erosion of the western periphery of Mordecai Island. As base points, they drove 96 wooden stakes along that side of the Island 10' in from the edge of the sedge at roughly even intervals. Subsequently, these stakes were sistered with PVC pipe that was driven 18" into the ground.

In the fall of 2000, John Coyle and Phil Flagler set out to take another reading of the erosion by measuring and photographing the stakes (or flags marking the position of the PVC markers where stakes were missing) and measuring distances to the edge of the sedge. As many stake positions as possible were renumbered, photographed and distances from the sedge edge recorded. Unfortunately, only the southern portion of the island was measured and recorded in this manner before winter made further work impossible.

As a general observation, the southern end of the Island seems to be faring quite well due in large part to the eel grass bed, which extends almost out to the ICW. As one approaches the cut to the north, however, the distances from sedge edge to stakes begin to dwindle with some areas of sedge having fallen away in chunks. This is not true for the whole north section, but a generalization. It will probably take another season or two to get a better idea of just what is eroding and how fast. There is no question, however, that specific portions of the Island are washing away at an alarming rate.

Mordecai Clean-up *(continued)* Crumbaugh and his daughter Lydia, Doug Buchan and his daughter Hannah, Chuck Maschal and whaler, Brian McGlynn and his daughter Leah, Mike Davis and Franz Schneider.

The day was sunny and clear, a cool northwest wind was blowing and many times we stopped to observe the beauty of the Island. The more we looked for debris, the more we found, the further we walked, and the larger the Island got (despite the erosion!). In all, we removed some 35-40 bags of trash from Mordecai and there's still more to be done. Most of the debris came from the high tide line on the side facing Long Beach Island. The returning boats were overflowing with trash!

Mordecai Concept Plan Delivered to Army Corps

Bill Pilling

Co-chair, LEHYC Environmental Protection Committee

On April 11, 2001, a concept plan to stabilize the western edge of Mordecai Island was forwarded to the Army Corps for consideration. The plan was prepared by Stewart Farrell, Director of the Richard Stockton Coastal Research Center.

Stew proposes using a series of disconnected breakwaters, a design successfully used in the Chesapeake and James River in Virginia. Stew's plan states: "The proposal would seek to define the best evaluation of the wave climate and use the Virginia engineering data to design the proper length and placement locations for breakwater units along the northern third to half of Mordecai Island. The placement of the rocks would be from the sea side using a barge and crane. A geo-textile base would be needed to retard subsidence into the fine-grained sediments. The breakwater design would follow the wing pattern seen to be so successful along the Chesapeake shoreline. At least two units are needed to stop the widening and erosion of the island shoreline at the present gap between the separated parts of the island."

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