
MORDECAI MATTERS

August 2001

Army Corps Schedules Field Visit

Bill Pilling & John Cranmer

Co-chairs, LEHYC Environmental Protection Committee

On May 22, 2001, Bill Pilling and John Cranmer met with Mr. William C. Mueller, Strategic Planner, Planning Division, and Ms. Susan Lucas, Chief, Coastal Planning Section, and others with the Philadelphia office of the Army Corps. The purpose of the meeting was for Mr. Mueller, with whom we have been in contact for several years, to introduce Mordecai to his colleagues and obtain input about funding an erosion control project on Mordecai.

As a follow-up to that meeting, Ms. Lucas has scheduled a field visit in late August to view Mordecai with a project manager and a biologist. The next steps would be for the Army Corps to draft a brief report on their findings about Mordecai and to seek funding should it decide to move forward.

We are optimistic that there will be a project.

Long Beach Township and Ocean County Join Beach Haven in Support of Mordecai

Bill Pilling

Co-chair, LEHYC Environmental Protection Committee

On June 15, 2001, the Board of Commissioners of Long Beach Township passed a resolution to join in the commitment of LEHYC to stabilize erosion on Mordecai Island and to preserve and protect its immeasurable value to wildlife, natural growth and protection for local property values. The resolution recommends funding be made available for stabilizing erosion on *(continued on reverse side)*

PLEASE COME!!

You are invited to a public discussion
"MORDECAI MATTERS: AN UPDATE"
Concept Plan to Control Erosion on Mordecai

Featuring **Dr. Stewart Farrell, Director**
Richard Stockton Coastal Research Center

Date: August 19, 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:

- **Learn about the plan for controlling erosion on Mordecai Island.**
- **Learn about the proposal to transfer Mordecai to a land trust.**
- **Learn how you can help!**

What Mordecai Means to Me

LEHYC Junior Sailing Program

Steve Keen, a resident of New Zealand, an Olympic hopeful and the LEHYC Junior Sailing Director, says that Mordecai provides great shelter by limiting sea conditions and providing a boundary for new sailors to stay within. Here is what some of our junior sailors say:

If we didn't have Mordecai, we'd have huge waves in the harbor and it wouldn't be fun to sail. - Colie Pilling (age 11).

Without Mordecai, there wouldn't be a home for many endangered species. - Rafe Pilling (age 13).

Mordecai makes sailing fun for beginners. If we didn't have Mordecai, then it would be hard for beginners to learn to sail. - Mike Reynolds (age 11).

Mordecai helps make a beautiful sunset. - Andrew Pilling (age 10).

Long Beach Township and Ocean County *(continued)* Mordecai. On June 20, 2001, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Ocean County passed a similar resolution. By these resolutions, Long Beach Township and Ocean County join the Borough of Beach Haven in supporting our efforts to save Mordecai Island.

Erosion Continues at Alarming Rate

Phil Flagler

Member, LEHYC Environmental Protection Committee

In 1999, 96 stakes were installed along the western edge of Mordecai set eight (8) feet back from the edge of the sedge. Their purpose was to provide a benchmark by which erosion of the Island could be measured. Chuck Maschal, Brian McGlynn, Bill Pilling and Phil Flagler made the most recent measurements on Memorial Day of 2001.

While the measurements are complex, there appears to be steady erosion of sedge material along the staked edge of Mordecai. The rate of erosion is alarming along the northern segment of the Island, at the cut that divides the Island and at certain points along the southern segment. The map below (although not precise) highlights the areas of greatest erosion.



Phil Flagler measuring erosion on Mordecai over the Memorial Day Weekend

As one who has been involved with most of the measurement work on Mordecai, what I see happening to the Island is distressing. I have been sailing its perimeter, walking its acreage, fishing its edges and enjoying its abundant wildlife since the 1940s. I hope you'll join many others and me in doing whatever is possible to preserve what remains of Mordecai.

**Please send any name or address updates or comments to the attention of William Pilling, 2600 One Commerce Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
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Mordecai Island

