
MORDECAI MATTERS

November 2001

Mordecai Land Trust Up and Running

On July 20, 2001, the Mordecai Land Trust, a NJ non-profit corporation, was born. The mission of the Trust is to protect and preserve Mordecai Island. The members and trustees of the Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club (LEHYC) have approved the transfer of Mordecai to the Mordecai Land Trust upon receipt of an IRS determination letter granting tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Application for tax-exempt status is pending.

The initial trustees of the Mordecai Land Trust include: Bill Pilling (President), Nancy Davis, Art Barron (Secretary), Phil Flagler, and Deborah Whitcraft. Treasurer is Frank Crumbaugh. For additional information about the Mordecai Land Trust and existing conditions on Mordecai, visit our web site at www.mordecaimatters.org.

Help preserve Mordecai. Become a member today by completing the attached membership application. Your support will make a difference!

Check us out at www.mordecaimatters.org.

Bill Pilling

Dr. Stewart Farrell Presents Erosion Mitigation Plan

On August 19, 2001, more than 50 persons attended a public meeting hosted by LEHYC entitled, "Mordecai Matters: An Update." Bill Pilling reported on efforts to document erosion and undertake an erosion control project as well as the formation of the Mordecai Land Trust and other activities. John Walton showed a video of efforts to document erosion on Mordecai.

The featured speaker *(continued on reverse side)*



Returning from Mordecai field visit are *left to right*: Bill Pilling; John Cranmer; Chris Boelke; Larrv Schmidt; Susan Lucas.

Army Corps Begins Mordecai Study!

A major hurdle has been surpassed! We recently learned that the Army Corps, under the direction of Ms. Susan Lucas, Chief, Coastal Planning Section, will begin a feasibility study of Mordecai Island.

The feasibility study is being conducted under the Continuing Authority Program (CAP) and will take approximately 12-18 months to complete. The NJDEP will act as a local sponsor with the Army Corps. The NJDEP, in turn, will need to partner with a public entity such as the Borough of Beach Haven or Ocean County. The project manager is Mr. Michael Giovannozzi, Coastal Planning Division.

Mr. Bernie Moore, Administrator, Engineering & Construction, NJDEP, has agreed on behalf of the NJDEP to act as a sponsor for the feasibility study with two caveats. The first caveat is that the NJDEP will require a cooperation agreement with either a county or municipality. The second caveat is that the NJDEP is signing up only for the feasibility study. Only after the feasibility study is completed will the NJDEP consider whether to sign up for the *(continued on reverse side)*

Dr. Stewart Farrell Presents Erosion Mitigation Plan *(continued)*

was Dr. Stewart Farrell, Director, Richard Stockton Coastal Research Center. Dr. Farrell presented his plan to mitigate erosion on Mordecai, involving the installation of a breakwater, dredge spoil and additional planting. He highlighted successful projects in the Chesapeake that involved placing emerged rubble breakwaters – offshore – in order to significantly mitigate the effect of the wave action. One of the more interesting projects was the Yorktown Battlefield Park where General Washington defeated Cornwallis in the Revolutionary War. There, as with Mordecai, severe winds were eroding the Park bordering the water. In order to protect the Park and the remains that were literally interred in the shoreline, the National Park Service and the State of Virginia placed two 120-foot breakwaters in the Chesapeake Bay. After a few years in place, sediment actually began to fill in behind the breakwaters and the shoreline has been stabilizing.

Dr. Farrell has suggested that the correct solution for Mordecai might involve a series of breakwater units placed in a wing pattern along the northern third of Mordecai. The rocks (any type ranging from clean concrete waste to quarry stone) would be placed by barge on top of a geo-textile base (literally, this is a mat that would prevent the rocks from sinking into the bottom of the bay). Everything still needs to go through the engineering process, which would determine the number, size and location of the breakwaters. While this treatment would not close the gap in the Island, it should significantly halt or even reverse the erosion process.

Dr. Farrell also discussed the southern portion of Mordecai. Because of the eelgrass bed and different wave patterns, the erosion is considerably slower and he recommended no action pending further study.

The presentation was followed by a thoughtful question and answer period from LEIYC members and neighboring friends alike.

John Cranmer

Egret

Poised over marsh grass
Feathery wings unfolded
Tending Mordecai

Andrea Pilling

Army Corps Begins Mordecai Study *(continued)*

construction phase.

Ms. Susan Lucas explained that the feasibility study stops just short of plans and specifications, but does include a preliminary engineering design. She indicated that the preliminary engineering design includes just about everything other than the type of “nuts and bolts” that are to be used.

Mayor Deborah Whitcraft, on behalf of the Borough of Beach Haven, agreed to talk with Mr. Moore about the Borough partnering with the NJDEP. The exchange of paperwork to formalize these arrangements still needs to be completed.

Bill Pilling

Mordecai Field Visit: The Army Corps is Committed

On August 20, 2001, Ms. Susan Lucas, Chief, Coastal Planning Section, Army Corps, conducted a field visit of Mordecai Island. She was joined by Mr. Larry Schmidt, Director, Office of Program Coordination, NJDEP, and Mr. Chris Boelke of Larry Schmidt’s office.

Bill Pilling and John Cranmer took Ms. Lucas, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Boelke on a tour of the western edge of Mordecai. We walked portions of the Island both north and south of the cut. The tide was incoming and close to high during the time of the visit. We observed just south of the cut a very large flock of black skimmers (endangered species, NJDEP, 7/19/99).

Ms Lucas repeated that the Army Corps is committed to a project. On her return to the dock after the visit, a reporter from the Atlantic City Press quotes Ms Lucas as saying, “I think it will be a great project.” Ms. Lucas said it would be refreshing for the Corps to be involved in a Mordecai Island project because “I think it will have 100 percent public support.”

Bill Pilling

Please send any name or address updates or comments to the attention of William Pilling, Mordecai Land Trust, P.O. Box 1414, Beach Haven, NJ 08008.

Telephone: 215-564-8079

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Membership Application Form

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Membership Fees

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- Friend 500 or \$_____

Make your check payable to “Mordecai Land Trust.” Mail your completed application to the Mordecai Land Trust, P.O. Box 1414, Beach Haven, NJ 08008.

Your membership is good for 12 months and will expire in the succeeding year on the last day of the month received. The expiration date will appear on your mailing label. For instance, “[7/02]” on your label means your membership will expire on July 31, 2002. Contributions not earmarked for membership will automatically be credited toward a membership.

Benefits of membership have insubstantial monetary value, so the entire amount of your membership fees should be tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes. See, IRS Publication 526 (Dec. 2000). On July 30, 2001, the Mordecai Land Trust filed an application for tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. This application is presently pending.

INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING (973) 504-6215. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.

International Clean-Up Day

Two dozen volunteers landed on beautiful Mordecai Island on September 15th rejoicing in its natural beauty and committed to restoring it to its original pristine state.

Although confronted by higher than anticipated tides and winds, which gusted up to 22 knots, we managed to remove 35 - 40 large trash bags filled with debris. Unusual items included a 15' long fish cleaning table complete with pipe-railing (towed off the Island by John Maschal), 2 large pallets, a rusted 55 gallon drum, 2 automobile tires, 4 trash can lids, a 5' round plastic child's swimming pool, a cushion-top to a large Hot Tub, and a 5-gallon gas can for an outboard motorboat.

However, what distinguished this trip from our April 28 clean up was "wood." This time the

Mordecai Matters crew went after wood products with a vengeance. With Russ Pritchard at the helm of John Coyle's 18-footer (ably assisted by Harvey "the gentleman" Restrick and Tom "the mouth-that-roared" Greenwald), we managed to remove a pile of wood products that measured 10' deep by 12' wide by 3.5' high, virtually covering the end of Berkeley Avenue under the flagpole.

The Mordecai crew included: Ralph Berglund, John Coyle, Frank & Lydia Crumbaugh, Nancy & Conyers Davis, Gail & Tom Greenwald, Bill Haig, Wes & Kit Heilman, Ken & Tyler Klaus, Chuck & John Maschal, Brian & Leah McGlynn, Bob Olson, Russ Pritchard, Harvey Restrick, Bob & Deedie Stahl and Jeff & Parker Wells.

By the way, attached to the flagpole was a fantastic American Flag donated by John Coyle -- SIZE: 18 feet by 12 feet. God Bless America!

Chuck Maschal

