



MORDECAI MATTERS

November 2002

President's Update

If Mordecai Island is to be saved, it is up to us to save it!

As the Trust completes its first full year of operation, we are off to a good start. The Trust has over 180 members and is growing. The Army Corps of Engineers is now entering the planning and design phase for an erosion control project on Mordecai. The outcome will be a construction plan to be bid out to contractors late next year.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and the success of our recent art auction, our capital campaign has raised over \$40,000 toward our goal of \$275,000. This is the estimated amount needed to fund the 25% local cost share of the project on Mordecai.

Where do we go from here? The Trust will work closely with the Army Corps and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to define the goals of a project on Mordecai and then propose a solution. We need to continue to fund raise and look forward to your continuing support. Through our website and newsletter we hope to keep you informed of developments as they occur.

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to our trustees, officers, the advisory board and the many other persons who have given their time and energy to saving Mordecai. This is a community effort.

Bill Pilling

“It Takes a Village” The Islands of the Bay Art Auction

“It takes a village,” a catchy phrase popularized by Hillary Clinton in the 90’s. Perhaps, but on the evening of October 12th the phrase changed to “It Takes A Borough.” The Islands of the Bay Art Auction held at Buckalews Tavern was a shining example of support from concerned citizens of Beach Haven, friends of Mordecai, and lovers of art.



Father Frank Crumbaugh calls for bids on “the lamp” during the live auction.

Approximately 186 people were treated to one of the year’s most successful social events on Long Beach Island. In all, 73 items were sold by silent and live auction.

Generous supporters of the Mordecai restoration effort donated all works. The art sold consisted of oil paintings, watercolors, prints, antique and original photographs, sculptures, models, carvings, decoys, fishing gear, and yes, even a lamp. Guests also purchased many hats and pins bearing our Mordecai Logo and the image of our adopted white egret.

The night and success of the auction would not have been possible without the help of a dedicated committee of workers, especially Jay Cranmer of Buckalews. Jay provided the room and all those incredibly delicious appetizers, which never stopped being served.

By the end of the evening, the tangible amount raised for the preservation effort was \$15,700. But something intangible also transpired on October 12. Our community, our village, came out in very significant numbers to show solid support for Mordecai Island.

Those of us on the committee would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your help. We hope to see you all again next year.

Rich Oelkers

Mordecai Fall Clean-Up

"Looks like our clean up efforts are starting to pay off" observed Mike Davis, referring to the smaller than usual pile of debris collected during the Fall Cleanup of Mordecai island, held September 21 in conjunction with International Coastal Cleanup Day. It certainly wasn't for lack of manpower, as more than thirty volunteers, including several family groups, showed up on a clear, sunny September morning and fanned out across every inch of the island, making short work of the annual Fall Cleanup, and leaving not a trace of debris behind.

Although there may not have been as much trash on Mordecai as in previous years, the type and variety of items found continues to be impressive. Included among this year's more interesting finds were a fully inflated beach ball, a pink whiffle ball bat, a refrigerator, a plastic end table, and a miniature "rubber duckie" sporting a diving mask and snorkel. The usual array of tennis balls, rubber tires, plastic bottles and chunks of Styrofoam turned up as well.

Bill Hermann and Dawn and Dan Brennan were joined not only by their own children, Gregor Herrman, DJ and Tori Brennan, but by their children's houseguests and friends. JB and Missy Maschal also made a family outing of the cleanup day with Megan and Annabel pitching in. High school students Sam Gilbert and Cassie Botti, who joined the group to earn Community Service credits, reflected that it had been "an enriching experience" that made them "appreciate the impact they had on the environment."

Also participating in the Sept 21 cleanup were Susie Gilbert, Bill Pilling Sr., Bob Olson, Rich and Norrie Oelkers, Ralph Berglund, Nils Herdelin, Rich and



Lynne Neff, Jerry Pentlicky, Gail and Tucker Murray, Gail and Tom Greenwald, Michael Davis, Phil Flagler, Jack Lampman and Vince Mackessy.

Thanks also to the Oelkers, Brennans, Neffs, Herrmans, Maschals, Phil Flagler, John Haig and Tim Flagler for providing the boats to ferry the group, including several journalists and photographers from the



Beach Haven Times and Asbury Park Press, to and from Mordecai.

Susie Gilbert

Species on Mordecai 2002



This year we have observed the following species on Mordecai: Bluefish, Mummichogs, Sticklebacks, Atlantic Silverside, Bay Anchovy, Tautog, Northern Puffers,

Pigfish, Northern Pipefish, Grass Shrimp, Comb Jellyfish, Blueclaw Crabs, Green Crabs, Menhaden, Northern Sea Robins, Atlantic Needlefish, Blue-spotted Cornetfish and Winter Flounder.

Each year and sampling day is different and I expect there are several more species of fish and inverts



that are using the habitat around Mordecai at times other than those sampled to date. I expect to sample about 2-4 more time this fall and will forward any significant data. There have been numerous reports of young Black Drum in the bay this year (I caught one at Taylor Avenue) and I would not be surprised to add that to the Mordecai list one of these days soon.

Steve Evert

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MORDECAI LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 1414, Beach Haven, NJ 08008-0084

Membership Application Form

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|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| <i>First Name</i> | | <i>M.I.</i> | <i>Last Name</i> | |
| <i>Address</i> | | | | |
| <i>City</i> | | <i>State</i> | <i>Zip Code</i> | |
| <i>Area Code</i> | <i>Telephone No.</i> | | <i>E-mail Address</i> | |

Membership Fees

- Student \$ 10
- Basic..... 25
- Pewter 35
- Silver..... 50
- Gold..... 75
- Platinum..... 100

2002-2004 Capital Campaign

- Sandpiper 100
- Laughing Gull 125
- Mallard Duck 250
- Kingfisher 500
- Black Skimmer..... 1,000
- Great (American) Egret..... 2,500
- Great Blue Heron 5,000
- Write your own amount! \$_____

All \$5,000 or above donors will be listed on stationary as founding members, if received by December 31, 2003!

Total Membership Fee & Capital Campaign..... \$_____

- Contact me to make a planned gift to the Trust.
- Contact me to arrange donation of stock or securities.
- My company makes matching gifts!
- I would like to meet personally to learn more about the project and talk about making a gift.
- Please send me a brochure that describes the 2002-2004 Capital Campaign and project to be funded.
- I claim membership based on six hours of service (*Student: three hours of service*).

Amounts contributed to the 2002-2004 Capital Campaign will be placed in a restricted account and applied toward the 25% local cost share of an erosion control project on Mordecai Island.

Make your check payable to "Mordecai Land Trust." Mail your completed application and check to above address.

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.

As benefits of membership have insubstantial monetary value, the entire amount of your membership fees and donation to the Capital Campaign should be tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes. See, IRS Publication 526 (Dec. 2000). The IRS has determined that the Mordecai Land Trust is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ("Code") and not a private foundation pursuant to sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Code.

Quiet Abundance

If one rests in the presence of Mordecai Island for very long at all, it becomes clear that Mordecai is a place of quiet abundance. Sitting in a small boat, watching and listening at twilight, I am provided ample evidence of this abundance: thousands of bait fish dart in the eel grass; the horseshoe crab, workman-like and stolid, toddles along its way; gone-to-roost gulls re-settle their wings at the sound of the motor, keeping one eye open until it's clear I mean no harm.

Under the grey drear of mid-March skies, stretches of shell beach hold rings of shell fragments formed into perfect circles, nestling the mottled greenish-brown eggs of the oystercatcher.

With bright sunshine over one's shoulder, schools of spearing can be seen running from Bay to Liberty Thoroughfare and back, driven from one side to the other by motor, tide, wind and wave, but always sheltered by Mordecai. The eccentric, head-cocked strutting of the herring gull seems perfectly in place in the grass meadows, where gull-meal-scrap of blue crab shell and claw litter the wind-raked salt grass...and even the out-sized black-back gull finds a resting place completely to scale.

Barn swallows migrate across the Island in the Autumn, and find a spot to rest in the bayberry on the North end...the leaves and limbs vibrating with the unseen but clearly present hundreds of cobalt-blue-and-khaki swallows sheltering against freshening wind and the watchful eye of the osprey cruising overhead.

Mordecai is nursery, dining room, hiding place, birthing place, dying place, resting place...it holds life, nurtures life, in quiet abundance.

**Frank Crumbaugh
Beach Haven, Summer 2002**



Address Correction Requested



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