

Mordecai Matters



2004 Events

- Sunday, August 22—Member Annual Meeting: 3:00-4:30 PM, Coast Guard Station at West & Pelham Avenues.
- Saturday, September 18—Fall Clean Up of Mordecai in conjunction with International Clean Up Day: 9:30-12:00 PM, LEHYC front dock.
- Sunday, September 19—Erosion Measurement on Mordecai: 8:30 AM, LEHYC front dock.
- Thursday, October 14—Trustee & Advisory Board Meeting: 7:30 PM, Molly Allison.

Did you Know?

Lenni Lenape Indians and early Long Beach Island settlers and explorers walked on Mordecai Island over 500 years ago.

Signs of Summer Become Reality

On a clear summer day on July 1st, MLT members, friends, Borough dignitaries, and Stockton College faculty gathered on Belvoir Avenue for the official dedication of the signage project. Beach Haven Mayor Debbie Whitcraft unveiled one of the twelve full color aluminum signs that have been put in place along the bay overlooking Mordecai Island and Liberty Thoroughfare.

The signs display artist renderings and descriptions of 24 of Mordecai's wildlife species.

The project, the result of a brainstorm between Mordecai President Rich Oelkers and trustee Joan Koons, has been in the works for nearly two years. Koons, in collaboration with Steve Evert, Richard Stockton College's manager of the Marine Science



and Environmental Field Station in Pomona, chose the species to use and wrote the accompanying text. Stockton's graphics department designed the signs, which were then transferred onto aluminum.

Already the signs have generated interest: most days residents and LBI visitors can

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You are invited to attend

THE MORDECAI LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING & PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Sunday, August 22, 2004

3:00 to 4:30 PM

Coast Guard Station, West & Pelham Avenues

AGENDA

- ✓ Update of the July 14th JPP Meeting
- ✓ Mordecai Restoration Project Presentation prepared by ACOE
- ✓ Presentation and Display of Signage Project
- ✓ Annual Business Meeting

(SIGNS OF SUMMER Continued from page 1)



Two Mordecai inhabitants:
buffleheads, male (above) and
female (below).



be seen paused at the ends of the streets, reading the signs and looking out over the island.

In the future, the Trust hopes to expand the project to include signs on more streets and to initiate educational partnerships with local schools and organizations.

Funding for the project was provided by The Conservation Fund, the William Penn Foundation, The Garden Club of Long Beach Island, and the Wal-Mart Foundation.



Seated: Marilyn Thomas, MLT treasurer; Rick Lorah, trustee; Bill Pilling, Vice President; Rich Oelkers, President. Back row: Phil Flagler, trustee; Joan Koons, trustee; Julie Bowen, Stockton College; Lisa Weiss, Jacques Cousteau Society; Karen Quinn, Stockton College; Steve Evert, Stockton College; Dennis Weiss, Stockton Dean of Natural Science and Mathematics; Art Barron, trustee; Debbie Whitcraft., Mayor of Beach Haven.

President's Update: Pivotal Meeting for Breakwater Design

Wednesday, July 14th marked a pivotal point in our project's progress. Rich Oelkers and Bill Pilling met with state and federal agencies at a Joint Permit Processing (JPP) meeting in Trenton, NJ.

The agencies represented at this meeting will have the final word on the issuance of any permits for the Mordecai coastal wetlands restoration project. Our breakwater designs and goals were presented to the JPP by ACOE project leader, Terry Fowler.

Before construction on any coastal restoration project can begin, the plans must be scrutinized, dissected, and assessed for their potential environmental impact.

The agencies participating in the JPP meeting, (NJ Department of Environmental Protection, NJ Department of Fish and Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA, US Environmental Protection Agency, and US Fish and Wildlife) each have to make certain that any undertaking is not harmful to the public sector, marine environment, avian population, aquatic life, and any other environmentally sensitive area.

The purpose of the JPP meeting was to update and inform these agencies about the developments of the Mordecai project in an informal, pre-application setting so as to obtain feedback about whether the project is on the proper course or whether we need to modify our plans.

The message we received is that we are on the right track, but there are no guarantees when it comes time to obtain the required permits. By seeking criticism and comments from the regulatory agencies at an early stage, we have a much clearer idea of what needs to be done before we make our final application.

The breakwater design presented to the JPP meeting is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management regulations for design of offshore breakwaters, except that the boards or sheathing would be somewhat wider and the spacing between the boards somewhat narrower to reduce the porosity of the structure (see page 3).

Of the three designs recently tested in the wave tank by the Stevens Institute, this is the design that proved most effective in reducing wave energy given the con-

(Continued on page 3)

"By seeking criticism and comments from the regulatory agencies at an early stage, we have a much clearer idea of what needs to be done before we make our final application."

Bird's Eye View House Tour Exceeds Expectations

The weather was blue sky perfect and the views over Mordecai spectacular for the first Mordecai House Tour and cocktail party. The Sunday, July 11th, fundraiser exceeded expectations with over 420 tickets sold.

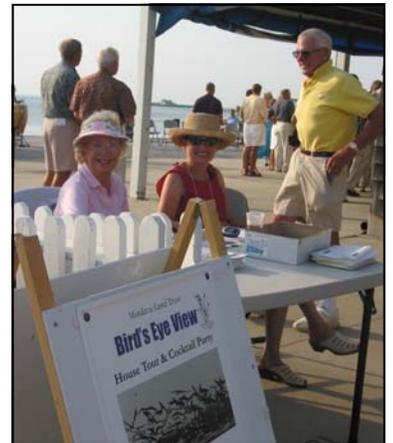
The event brought together Mordecai members and the LBI community as 90 volunteers manned the seven houses, provided flowers, and hosted the cocktail party. Donations from local businesses, including restaurants and caterers, provided food, drink and raffle items for the event.

The hard work and planning by the committee, chaired by Norrie Oelkers and Kathy Spicer, generated income of well over \$16,000.

Joan Koons, a MLT board member, remarked that the tour was the best bargain she'd purchased for \$30 and liked the idea of being able to walk or ride bikes to the houses. "It was better than our dreams," she said.

The Trust thanks all those who

helped or donated to the Tour, with a special thank you to the seven homeowners who graciously opened their homes for the tour. Your contributions are integral to the effort to save Mordecai and, ultimately, to its survival.



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straints of the CZM regulations.

Also significant is the fact that breakwater, being parallel to Mordecai Island and the tidal flow, would not create a stagnant embayment.

We are very pleased with the results of the JPP meeting. We now have to wait until October before work on the project can resume, assuming the Army Corps receives fiscal 2005 funding for continuing authorities programs such as Mordecai.

We believe that our studies, the urgency of the problem and our purpose will lean in our favor. We are making considerable progress and we thank you all for your patience and your continued support.

Richard G. Oelkers

Don't Know When Your Membership Expires?

The expiration date appears on your mailing label. Use the enclosed envelope to renew or become a member today!

<p>John Smith 111 Bay Avenue Beach Haven, NJ 08008</p>	<p>Expires 7/31/2004</p>
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The Trust is a nonprofit Section 501(c)(3) organization.

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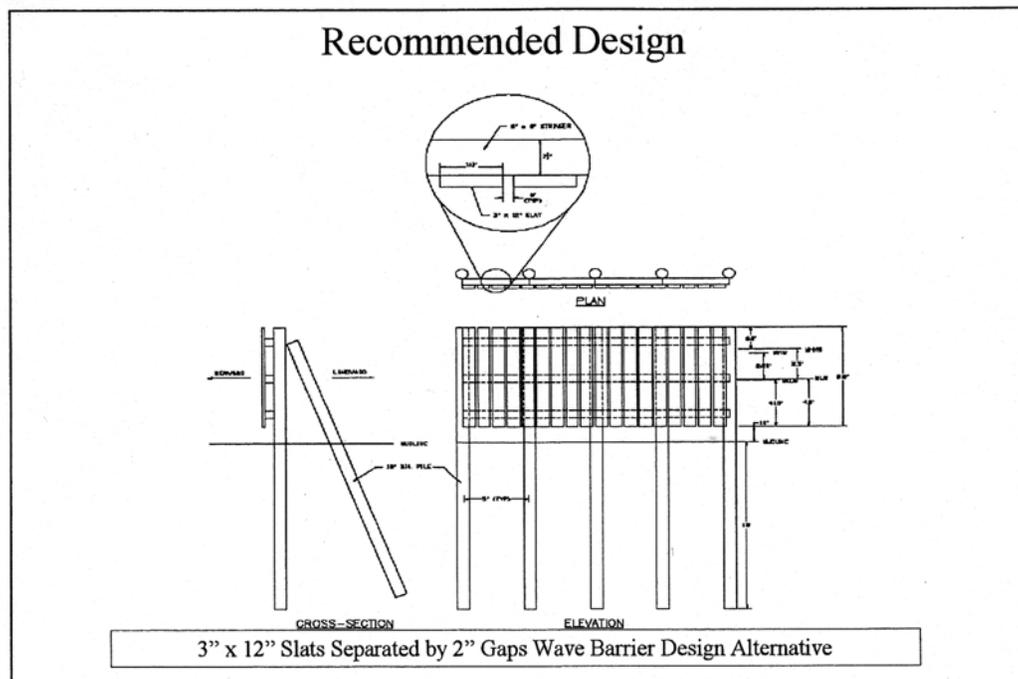


Address Correction Required

Mordecai Matters

*A publication of Mordecai Land Trust
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We're on the web! Mordecaimatters.org



The recommended breakwater based on the results of the Stevens Institute Wave Studies.