

Mordecai Matters



2006 TENTATIVE CALENDAR

Trustees Meeting

Saturday, April 8th, time and place TBA

Trustees Meeting

Friday, June 2, 7 PM, place TBA

House Tour/Cocktail Party

Sunday, July 9th, afternoon and evening

Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 27th, 3-4:30 PM, old Coast Guard Station

Fall Clean-up

Saturday, September 16th, 9:30 AM, LEHYC dock

Trustees Meeting

Friday, October 6th, 7 PM, Molly Allison.

Did you know that Mordecai Island has been selected to be an Important Bird Area by the NJ Audubon Association?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: continuing the mission

As you may know, the Trust officially elected new officers and trustees in October: I assume the president's slot, following in the footsteps of Rich Oelkers and Bill Pilling before him. It's a daunting responsibility to follow two such dedicated and capable persons and I'm fortunate that they are still so actively involved. They have been and continue to be integral to the process of preserving the island. I look forward to continuing the Trust's mission and the work laid out in our master plan.

And the work does go on. Thanks to Bill Pilling, Jeanne Runne and John Cranmer, we are getting close to finalizing the SWMER grant and hope to have Phase I of that project in place in 2006 (see article below). In conjunction with SWMER, we are in the process of resetting our stakes and having an aerial survey done of the island, both essential to continued monitoring of the island's erosion.

We have been advised that the Army Corps will be able to complete the geotechnical borings analysis for the Breakwater Project, so plans can continue when funding resumes.

The Fundraising Committee has begun work on

next summer's July House Tour and our Education Outreach Program has plans for another Beach Haven School Living Museum in late spring. We also hope to expand our Fall Clean-Up by taking the students out to the island with our group in September.

Our newest project is development of a more formal network between the Trust and other environmental and non-profit organizations on or near Long Beach Island. What is happening on Mordecai is an accurate reflection of what is happening to our natural resources along the east coast, and by sharing our resources with like minded organizations, we have the opportunity to learn from and help each other.

Thanks to the efforts of the Trust and our dedicated supporters, we have become a model for restoration of sedge islands in the Barnegat Bay Watershed, but we need volunteers to help us continue the work. If you are interested in joining us in any capacity, let us know. To rephrase an old expression, it's a beautiful island and somebody has to save it!

Linda L. Colgan, President

SWMER IS SWIMMING ALONG NICELY

Our second restoration project known as SWMER (Southwest Mordecai Ecosystem Restoration Project) uses biological materials to restore and protect areas along the southwest edge of Mordecai that have experienced severe erosion.

In September, as a follow-up to a recent site visit by NOAA, Rich Oelkers and Bill Pilling, together with Doug Gaffney, who is our engineering consultant from Ocean And Coastal Consultants, presented the project to a Joint Permit Processing meeting in Trenton, NJ. The resource agencies in attendance gave positive feedback to the

proposal with some helpful suggestions.

We are now in the process of obtaining the final permits and resubmitting a grant request to NOAA for the Phase I, above MHWL (Mean High Water Line), project targeted for construction in March 2006.

In the interim, the Trust will submit an application to the NJDEP for an individual permit for Phase II (below MHWL) for construction targeted in March 2007.

Bill Pilling

SURVIVOR MORDECAI STYLE

Eleven intrepid volunteers participated in the fall Mordecai cleanup on a brilliant Saturday morning September 17th. Four boats anchored on the island and collected a sizable amount of debris, despite being hampered by a high tide that covered much of the perimeter grasses and made for some serious wading.

Harvey Restricker, who for some reason was stranded on the island for nearly an hour after everyone else had left, was finally rescued from his Survivor Mordecai experience by Johnny Haig, who heard him calling for aid as he was going by on his boat. Johnny and Harvey arrived safely at the LEHYC dock with an extra bag of trash in tow.

Thanks for their efforts to Harvey and Johnny, Bob and Deedie Stahl,

Linda and Tony Colgan, Phil Flagler, Rick Lorah, Ralph Berglund, and Mia and Emma Maschal.



FROM BEACH HAVEN SCHOOL: a student explains why Mordecai matters

(The following was written by Sharon Bellingeri, a 6th grader at Beach Haven School.)



Mordecai Island is important to the wildlife that migrates to the island for the summer, and migrates south when it becomes winter. The 45 acre sedge island is home to crustaceans, mammals, birds, fish, and other wildlife that migrates to the island. Those animals depend on the island. If the island was to be submerged, the wild-

life would most likely become extinct or far more endangered than they were before.

Many crustaceans on the island get food and make their homes on the island. If the island vanished, they would disappear as well. Crabs locate their prey there. The fiddler crab makes its home in the mud flats on the island and gets nutrients from the mud. The blue clawed crab finds small fish and needs the island for good sources of food. They also feed on oysters and hard clams. They scavenge for food and they play a great role in the food web. The barnacles cling to the rocks and filter feeds on the island. Crustaceans need Mordecai Island to survive.

Many birds migrate to Mordecai Island and they make up a great part of the island. Birds like the black crowned night heron, the least tern, the yellow crowned night heron, northern harrier, black skimmer, and the American bittern, are all endangered species of Mordecai Island. Then there are birds such as the black backed gull, which is the largest gull that lives in our region, and the herring gull, which is the most common gull. Some of the birds are at the top of the food web. The osprey, cormorants, brants, and ducks are all at the top of the food web. If the island lost some of the prey that those birds live on, they would soon die off. The red knot migrates

to the island to find its only source of food-horseshoe crab eggs. The egret also travels to the island to find fish and plankton. Ospreys migrate there to build nests. If Mordecai Island was to erode away, I don't think that we would have many of those animals to look forward to when summer comes. We would never again remember their calls in the morning. It would lead to the devastation of wildlife.

Fish and even butterflies go to the island for a source of food and use it for breeding. They need the island to survive. The fish feed on plankton and krill. The fish also use the island as a breeding ground, but can be eaten by their predators. The butterflies find food, and also crave the salty air.

The food web is a big part of Mordecai Island. If anything happens to one species of animal, the rest of the animals will soon follow. The birds feed on the fish and the fish feed on the plankton. The crabs eat the mud and the nutrients in it, and they eat some small fish. Clams, barnacles, and other shellfish filter feed. Also, a predator that dies off would leave its prey to grow greatly into population. That animal would become an overpopulated species.

We want to try to save the animals that need Mordecai Island, and kids and adults could help. We could try to get more and more people to come to the clean-up on Mordecai Island, and to try to clean the waters that surround the island. We could also try to catch some of the endangered animals and track them, or we could start a place where we could breed them and release the bred animals into the wild. It might help to boost the population a little bit. We could also build nests and places for some animals to breed for the animals that are on Mordecai.

If we do not have Mordecai Island in the near future, the animals and some humans will not have a future that they can look forward to. The people that enjoy going to the island will have to stare at

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2006 ELECTED OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
October 8, 2005

The following officers to serve for the 2005/2006 fiscal year:

Linda L. Colgan	President
John Cranmer	1st Vice President
Jeanne Runne	2nd Vice President
Marilyn Thomas	Treasurer
Ralph Berglund	Secretary
Patricia Miller	Membership Chair
Philip Flagler	Assist. Treasurer
William Pilling	Assist Secretary

The Executive Committee will be comprised

of the following members:

Linda L. Colgan	9/30/2008
Jeanne Runne	9/30/2009
Arthur R. Barron	9/30/2008
Joan Koon	9/30/2006
Richard Lorah	9/30/2006
Harvey Restrck Jr.	9/30/2007
Hon. Deborah C. Whitcraft	Ex Officio

It is recommended that the following persons be appointed as trustees by the Executive Committee.

John Cranmer
Ralph Berglund
Marilyn Thomas

Patricia Miller
Frank Crescitelli
Dr. Patricia Daggy
Steve Evert
Gail Greenwald
Jay Mann
Melissa Maschal
Noreen Oelkers
Richard Oelkers
William Pilling
Barbara Zimmermann

(The above officers and Executive Committee members were approved at the October Trustees meeting. The above trustees were appointed by the Executive Committee at that meeting.)

THANKS TO OUR PRESIDENT



The fall trustees meeting was highlighted by a changing of the guard as Rich Oelkers stepped down as president of the Land Trust after serving for two years.

An active and enthusiastic president, Rich brought his own expansive style of leadership to the Trust. He has truly been a steward of the island. With his binoculars in hand and garvey at the ready, he was not above heading out to the island if he thought any Mordecai residents (skimmers, in particular)

were in danger from errant boaters or strangers perusing the island.

In appreciation to Rich for his hard work and dedication, the Trust presented him with a "bird in flight" statuette (above) at the end of the meeting.

Rich will continue to serve on the board as a trustee and as co-editor of Mordecai Matters.



Linda Colgan and Richard G. Oelkers.

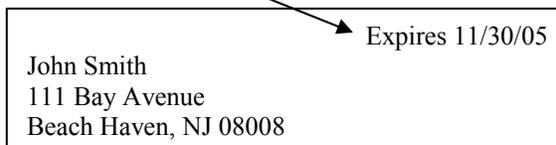
(STUDENT ESSAY Continued from page 2)

nothingness. They would not have any more memories of kayaking out to the island to look at the wildlife. They would not be able to look at the island during the changing of the seasons. It would be a tragedy that no one would forget about.

Sharon Bellingeri

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! If you are not a member, "courtesy copy" will appear instead of expiration date.



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Mordecai Matters

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We're on the web! Mordecaimatters.org

LATE SEASON OSPREYS NEST ON ISLAND

I was sitting at my desk on an August afternoon when, through the open window, I heard the shrill, piercing bird call that I had not heard for many years - that of an Osprey or Fish Hawk. I walked out onto the deck and searched the sky over Mordecai for the source of sound. Could it be? It was. For the first time in my five summers opposite Mordecai, there was an Osprey. Even better, there were two of them and one assumes they were mates.

It was late in the season for them. My friend (and new Mordecai Trustee) Barbara Zimmerman, said that from her experience as a docent at the Stone Harbor Wetlands Institute, most Ospreys would have headed south by then, and that, perhaps, these were birds born this season, not yet familiar with their program. Absent any wrack (nesting straw) in the stand that Nick Cotov erected across from his boat landing many years ago, Ms. Osprey was seen to be comfortable on the spartina along the edge of the interior pond of Mordecai.

As days went by I watched them. Mr. O. would perch on a pole near Nick's Osprey stand and survey the world. Once I saw him dive into



the water, emerge with a fish and fly off while he adjusted the fish in his claws to be head-first for less aerodynamic resistance. The fish's first and last flight. Barbara tells me that he would have first taken the fish to his mate for her to feed. Subsequently, he was back on the pole with the remains of the fish from which he would tear off and enjoy a piece now and then.

I soon saw seagulls sitting around Ms. Osprey's nest and we concluded that they were probably after her eggs. Apparently, they prevailed. Soon Ms. O. disappeared from the scene, followed by Mr. O. about a week later.

These are handsome, serious birds who do not forage on other birds' eggs. It was a pleasure to have had them return to Mordecai after so many years and one hopes they'll return early next season.

Ralph Berglund