

Mordecai Matters



2007 UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 26th
3—4:30 PM

Emergency Operations Center
Beach Haven

Fall Clean Up

Saturday, September 15th
9 AM—Noon, LEHYC dock

Trustees Meeting

Friday, September 28th
7 PM, Molly Allison

Art Show & Wine Tasting Dinner

Saturday, October 6th
5:30 PM, Buckalews
(details to follow)

Miles for Mordecai

Memorial Day Sunday
(raindate Monday)
May 25th, 2008
West Avenue, Beach Haven

**Don't know when your
membership expires?**

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

BIOLOGS ONE YEAR LATER

On June 9, 2007, one year after the MLT's herculean volunteer effort to transport and install biologs at key places on the perimeter of Mordecai as part of SWMER I, a smaller group of volunteers returned to Mordecai to take stock. The primary purpose of this June's effort was to measure the erosion (and happily some accretion!) at designated stake points. This was also a chance to see how the biologs were doing.

Unfortunately in many cases, the answer is not very well. The continued hardiness of the biologs depends greatly on their location. Those on the eastern edge facing Liberty Thorofare generally remain intact and appear to provide good protec-

tion with Eric Schradling, US Fish and Wildlife and Doug Gaffney, Ocean and Coastal Consultants, to fine tune our plans and obtain the necessary permits. Toward this end there have been a series of meetings, most recently on July 17th, with the NJDEP unit processing our application. Bill Pilling, our project manager, reports that based on informal feedback received, the NJDEP shares our goal of restoring Mordecai and accepts the need for an offshore solution given our experience with the biologs last summer. The discussions have focused on the pros and cons of various materials such as goetubes versus rock taking into account the size of the footprint on the bay bottom, longevity, effectiveness and cost. The NJDEP hopes to respond to us in time for our annual meeting on August 26th. The Trust greatly appreciates the efforts of Eric and Doug, as well as the NJDEP, in not only making SWMER II a reality but in enhancing its effectiveness.

With the experience and knowledge we have gained this past year and with the latest talks in Trenton going well, we are optimistic of a project next summer. But we should know more by the time of the annual meeting.



Above: biologs along the southeastern shoreline.

tion to the shoreline they hug. However, those on the western edge, which take the brunt of wave, wake and weather, have not fared as well. While disappointing, this hard-earned knowledge is being factored into our plans for SWMER II.

To implement SWMER II, we have been working



Above: stakes indicate where biologs were placed along the southwestern shoreline. Most grass plantings in this area have also disappeared.

SWMER II presently envisions placing two sills consisting of a sand filled geotextile tube just offshore of one of the most eroded portions of southwestern Mordecai. Each sill will be between 260 feet and 310 feet, with a 75-100 foot gap between, to allow nesting turtles and spawning horseshoe crabs to access the sandy beach portion of Mordecai (known as Terrapin Beach), and for juvenile fish to seek shelter inside the sill. Placement of the sill will range from approximately 10 to 65 feet seaward of the current shoreline. This will be augmented by installation of: eelgrass landward of the sill; a shore perpendicular current deflector to reduce erosion caused by tidal current; several more biologs; and additional marsh grass. For SWMER II, the Trust is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. The goal of SWMER II is restoration.

SKIMMER UPDATE



In the last week of July, a lone Boston Whaler carrying two people pulled up to Mordecai Island as they do each year at this time. This is nesting season and our Skimmers are just hatching their eggs. The two visitors were biologists and not intruders. One of the biologists is Dr. Joanna Burger. Dr. Burger is a distinguished professor of Rutgers University and a member of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute. Dr. Burger also chair of the Woman in Science Committee. The two were counting the hatchlings and noting their progress.

We asked Dr Burger how the skimmers fared this season. We have to remember that we are dealing with nature and her respective elements. She responded, "Unfortunately, about a third of the chicks [which were hatching to one week old] died from heavy rains last week."

That report may sound bleak but our skimmers are still very prolific. With a final count this year of 285 nests, the colony is still very large.

MLT WELCOMES OUTRIGGER PADDLER AND ENVIRONMENTALIST



FROM RALPH BERGLUND, JULY, 2007:

Barbara (Zimmerman) and I were quite excited tonight to spot five Great Blue Herons along the eastern bank of the "pond" inside Mordecai Island. I've never seen one in the seven summers I've spent here. I used my longest lens (420mm) to catch the attached photo but at 1050' from my roof deck to the birds the picture's a little fuzzy.

Members of Mordecai Land Trust and Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club greeted Margo Pellegrino, a stay-at-home mother of two who paddled an outrigger canoe from Miami to Maine, as she entered local waters on Friday evening, June 22. Margo arrived within five minutes of her ETA of 5:30 PM at the Molly Allison dock to a crowd of supporters and news reporters. Commodore Frank Reilly was on hand to present Margo with a "Mordecai Matters" hat while Beach Haven Mayor Tom Stewart helped dock her canoe.

After warming up, Margo attended the Friday Happy Hour, where she mingled with Club members, guests from Mordecai, the East Coast Surfrider Foundation, Mayor Stewart, local news reporters, and members of her family.

Pellegrino's nearly 2000 mile journey — from Miami, FL to Camden, ME — was to raise awareness of coastal and ocean environmental issues and to raise money for groups working on solutions. She hoped to inspire people to take an active role in the stewardship of our oceans and show that one person can make a difference.

"It's great to finally get into familiar waters. I trained in these waters so it is great to be back," said Pellegrino. She added, "I'm doing this because the future of our oceans can't wait."

Margo is also a dedicated trustee of the Mordecai Land Trust. She first landed in Beach Haven last summer, having read about the Southwest Mordecai Ecosystem Restoration Project (SWMER), a joint project



on Mordecai with the American Littoral Society, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center.

Miami2Maine raised money for groups working to solve coastal environmental problems including all East Coast Surfrider Foundation Chapters, Oceana, and the Mordecai Island Land Trust. Margo's journey was tracked online at www.Miami2Maine.com using maps with her GPS coordinates and daily blogs featuring anecdotes from her journey along with pictures and video clips that she uploaded remotely.

Margo's journey ended July 20 in Camden, Maine, on a perfect weather day with flat seas and no wind. Margo says:

While my paddle up the coast has ended, the mission continues. At the very least, the choir I've sometimes been accused of preaching to must now sing-into the fray we must go, armed with science and our loud, collective voices.

The Trust is proud to have Margo as a trustee and thanks her for including us in her mission to raise awareness of coastal environmental problems.

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON

Did you know that the Audubon Society is one of the most powerful and important conservation organizations in the United States? There are more than 500 Chapters in the this country, all working to protect and preserve our precious natural resources. In New Jersey there are five local chapters, the Absecon chapter being the closest to Mordecai.

The National Audubon Society's mission is "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity." The Society is not only about bird conservation but champions such important causes as, global warming, the endangered species act, ecosystem restoration, population and habitat, clean water act, funding conservation programs, influence public policy, and wind power as an alternative energy source. New Jersey Audubon has recently designated Mordecai Island as one of 122 sites in New Jersey as an Important Bird Area. A visit to their web site, www.njaudubon.org will show

Mordecai as site # 92 on the list.

This designation was very important to those of us who prepared the application. We felt that Mordecai Island needed to be recognized for its unique importance to the Barnegat Watershed. The Audubon mission being very similar to the mission of the Mordecai Land Trust, it was natural that we would seek their support. We at Mordecai Land Trust hope you will support NJ Audubon. The IBA (important bird area) Program has laid the groundwork for community-based conservation at more than 1800 sites across the USA.

We will continue to emphasize Mordecai's importance in Ocean County but we still need volunteers to help us monitor and count birds and identify species. If you can help in that area, please contact one of our trustees at info@mordecainmatters.org. Help us continue our mission to "Preserve, Prolong and Protect" Mordecai Island. We know you care!



HOUSE&GARDEN TOUR BREAKS RECORDS

Thanks to the efforts of our fundraising committee and to the support of all who attended this event, our July 21st House & Garden Tour and Cocktail Party broke records in tickets sold and money raised for the Trust.

Over \$18,000 was raised for the fundraiser, with nearly 400 tickets sold. More than 110 volunteer participated during the day, either working at the houses and gardens or during the cocktail party.

The Trust thanks all those who so generously supported this event, including the owners of the houses and gardens, the establishments who donated food and items for the cocktail party, and our many volunteers.

Of course, nothing would have happened without the efforts of our committee, a dynamic group, many of whom have been meeting since early last fall. Many thanks to the following: Co-Chairs Gail Greenwald and Sharon Twomey; Committee members Kathleen Birch, Linda Colgan, Gene Ann Hook, Elaine Leonardi, Holly Lorah, Rick Lorah, Missy Maschal, Pat Miller, Norrie Oelkers, Rich Oelkers, Kathy Spicer, Sharon Stephanoni, Peg Stoldt, and Marilyn Thomas.

Congratulations on a phenomenal job!

SWMER I GRANT MONEY RECEIVED

Mordecai Land Trust is very happy to report that over \$21,000 in grant money for SWMER I has been received. Our heartfelt thanks to the American Littoral Society (ALS), which provided the funds. ALS made this award with input from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center, in Sandy Hook, NJ. ALS and NOAA Restoration Center are partners in Restore America's Estuaries (RAE).

In addition to our appreciation for their financial assistance, MLT is also very grateful for the guidance, expertise and involvement of these organizations. We continue to develop and reinforce important relationships with others who share our commitment to protecting Mordecai Island.

WITH A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

The Mordecai Land Trust thanks the friends and families of the following for their generous donations in memory of:

Steve Flagler
Kit Heilman
Virginia Lucus
Tucker Murray

The Trust also thanks these special persons who included Mordecai Land Trust in their fundraising efforts:

Members of the Junior Yacht Club of Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club, sponsored a Run for Mordecai and also donated half of the proceeds of their carwash to us. The group presented MLT president Linda Colgan with a check at the July 21st Cocktail party.

Michelle Corace remembered her father Tucker Murray with a gift to MLT on Father's Day this year.

The LEHYC Art Show and Happy Hour has designated Mordecai Land Trust as its beneficiary.

The Yoga group at LEHYC led by Betsy Miller made a contribution to Mordecai from the fees charged at their sessions.



L to R: Emily Van Saun (JYC Treasurer), Megan Maschal, Linda Colgan (MLT President), Meg Kelly, Laura Pospisil and Suzy Reynolds (JYC Commodore)

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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

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
THE MORDECAI LAND TRUST
ANNUAL MEETING & PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Sunday, August 26th, 2007, 3:00 to 4:30 PM
Beach Haven Emergency Operations Center
West & Pelham Avenues



Presentation by Daniel Hernandez,
Associate Professor of Biology, Stockton College

HORSESHOE CRABS ON MORDECAI