

# Mordecai Matters



## 2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

### Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 4th  
7:30 PM—Conference call

### Spring (TBD)

Possible Commencement  
of SWMER II

### Miles for Mordecai

Memorial Day Sunday,  
May 25th  
(rain date Monday, May 26th)  
West Avenue, Beach Haven

### House & Garden Tour/Cocktail Party

Saturday, July 19th  
Tour 3 to 6 PM  
Sunset over Mordecai 6 to 8  
at LEHYC

### Annual Meeting

Friday, September 27th  
7 PM Annual Meeting followed  
by Cocktail Party  
at Molly Allison

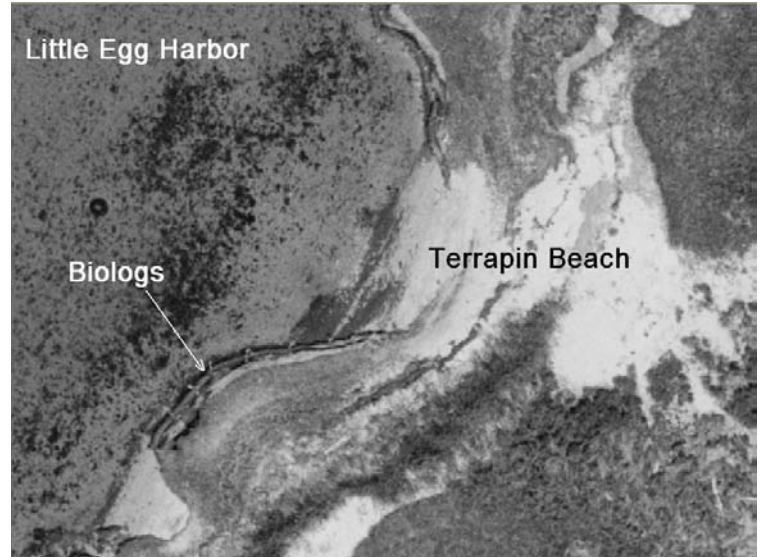
Would you like to remember a friend on a birthday or a special occasion? Consider giving a donation in their honor to Mordecai Land Trust.

## NJDEP APPROVES SWMER II, PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

On August 24<sup>th</sup> Mordecai Land Trust was notified by NJDEP that we have received State permits for our SWMER II project to begin restoration work on the island during 2008. News of the permits came in time to announce to our members at the annual meeting on Sunday, August 26.

SWMER II, which is an acronym for Southwest Mordecai Ecosystem Restoration, will involve more extensive work on the southern end of the island than SWMER I, the biolog installation and planting effort completed in 2006, and will require both volunteer and professional manpower. Funding for the approximately two year \$100,000 project will come from grant and fundraising sources.

SWMER II involves placing two sand-filled geotextile tube (geotube) sills just offshore of one of the most eroded portions of southwestern Mordecai. Placement will range from about 10 to 65 feet seaward of the current shoreline. Subject to obtaining final Corps permits, soliciting bids and fundraising, we hope to begin installation of SWMER II in either the Spring or August, 2008,



2006 aerial survey showing southwestern edge of Mordecai and area of biolog installation. Photos courtesy of Doug Gaffney

with construction of the geotube sills and continue in 2009 with the addition of biologs and plantings.

Unlike biologs, which have a relatively short lifespan, the geotubes should last 15 years or more. Geotubes are sand-filled, geotextile-encased tubular structures made from high strength woven polypropylene. The idea is that the geotubes will dissipate wave energy, thereby reducing erosion rates and enhancing the eel grass and shellfish habitat in the lee of the sill (approximately 1.5 acres). When the geotube does break down, the area around it should be sufficiently stabilized to withstand wake and wave energy.

The Trust has been working closely with Eric Schradig, US Fish and Wildlife, and Doug Gaffney, Ocean and Coastal Consultants, to fine tune the plan and obtain the permits. In the meantime, our volunteer efforts will continue in Spring 2008 with Phase I permit work focused on replanting and biolog repair.



Southeastern area of installation.

## A NEW PRESIDENT AND SIX NEW TRUSTEES BEGIN THE NEW YEAR

This has been a busy few months for the Mordecai Nominating Committee. Outgoing President, Linda Colgan, turned over the reins to new President John Cranmer at the September Trustees meeting and six new trustees were appointed, while during the summer Dr. Jeff Hager became the newly elected Executive Committee member from LEHYC.

Meanwhile Trust membership is up over the past two years: active members have increased to above 320 this year from below 300 two years ago, our fundraising committee has become an entity onto itself, and our list of community volunteers has grown into the hundreds.

We think that our new President and Trustees certainly reflect the growth and commitment of the organization.

John Cranmer has been involved in Mordecai since its beginning. A true conservationist, he co-chairs LEHYC's environmental committee and has grown up spending his summers on the bay in Beach Haven. He is an attorney for Archer & Greiner PC in Haddonfield, NJ, where he practices real estate, regulatory and land use law. He is familiar with all aspects of the Trust and looks forward to taking on the leadership role.

Our new trustees have already been active participants in Mordecai, as volunteers out on the island for clean-ups and biotop installation, for fundraising activities, and as committee members. All of them are deeply committed to the Mordecai mission of preserving the island. More information about our new board will be available in our next issue.

Meanwhile, many thanks to our outgoing trustees, who continue to serve on committees and as volunteers and who remain at the heart of our Mordecai family. You can see, for example, Ralph Berglund's beautiful pictures on these pages. We are grateful for their years of service and commitment.

### *Officers 2007-2008*

John D. Cranmer, President  
 Jeanne Runne, 1st Vice-President  
 Linda L. Colgan, 2nd Vice-President  
 Richard G. Oelkers, Secretary

Marilyn Thomas, Treasurer  
 Patricia Miller, Membership

### *Executive Committee*

Arthur Barron  
 John D. Cranmer  
 Dr. Jeffrey Hager  
 Harvey Restrict Jr.  
 Jeanne Runne  
 Douglas Walker  
 Honorable Thomas Stewart

### *Appointed Trustees*

Kathleen Birch  
 Linda L. Colgan\*  
 Dr. Patricia Daggy  
 Steve Evert  
 Michael Furman  
 Deb Harkness  
 Melissa Maschal  
 Patricia Miller  
 Richard G. Oelkers\*  
 Margo Pellegrino  
 William Pilling\*  
 Sharon Stefanoni  
 Marilyn Thomas  
 Sharon Twomey  
 \*Denotes past president

### *Mordecai Advisory Board*

George Allen,  
 Ralph Berglund,  
 John and Gretchen Coyle,  
 Frank Crescitelli,  
 Reverend Frank Crumbaugh, III,  
 Gail Greenwald,  
 Holly and Richard Lorah,  
 Jay Mann, Norrie Oelkers,  
 Kathy Spicer,  
 Barbara Zimmerman

### *Winter Gull*

*Photo by Ralph Berglund*





## ART SHOW & WINE TASTING DINNER A DELECTABLE EVENING



100 connoisseurs of the arts enjoyed an evening of art, wine tasting and gourmet dining at Buckalews Restaurant in Beach Haven at the Mordecai Art Show and Wine Tasting Dinner on October 6th.

26 local artists contributed exquisite artwork for the silent auction, and Jay Cranmer donated an assortment of vintage red wines to be auctioned, which turned out to be one of the highlights of the event.

Attendees were treated to hors d'oeuvres, a four course dinner with selected wines with each course and, of course, the excitement of who outbid whom for what piece of art or wine at the end of the night.

Missy Maschal and Marilyn Thomas chaired the event. Buckalew's Restaurant generously hosted the evening and worked with the committee on menu and set up. Rich Oelkers acted as master of ceremony for the evening.

The sold out fundraiser netted over \$7250, exceeding expectations for our first event of this kind. Many thanks to our artists, committee, and Jay Cranmer and staff of Buckalews for a successful and enjoyable night.

Committee members included Kathleen Birch, Linda Colgan, Gail Greenwald, Gene Ann Hook, Elaine Leonardi, Holly and Rick Lorah, Pat Miller, Norrie and Rich Oelkers, and Sharon Twomey



*Clockwise from top: Co-chairs Missy Maschal and Marilyn Thomas, Linda Colgan and egret, table setting.*

## BIRD'S EYE NEWS

- MLT trustees Linda Colgan and Missy Maschal took Mordecai on the road this fall by attending the LBI Rotary luncheon and meeting November 15th. Linda gave a Power Point presentation on the history and activities of the Trust. The Rotary generously donated \$500 to our SWMER II Project. We will next be guest speakers at the Garden Club of Long Beach Island on January 10th.
- Gail Greenwald stepped down as head of Fundraising after a highly successful year, turning the reins over to Sharon Stefanoni. Many thanks to Gail for a job well done.
- Final numbers on the July House & Garden Tour showed that we netted nearly \$18,000, our most successful fundraiser to date. Many thanks to everyone who supported that event and to our hard working fundraising committee and volunteers!
- MLT trustee Steve Evert and students from Richard Stockton College are beginning a year long species identification program on Mordecai Island. Steve is a faculty member and the Field Station Manager for the Marine Science and Environmental Field Station at the college.



*Striking Heron on Mordecai*

*Photo by Ralph Berglund*

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



Address Correction Required

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Linda L. Colgan, Richard G. Oelkers, Jeanne Runne, Editors  
Photographs by Gene Ann Hook and Ralph Berglund  
Email: [info@mordecaimatters.org](mailto:info@mordecaimatters.org)*

**We're on the web! [Mordecaimatters.org](http://Mordecaimatters.org)**

LET OUR MISSION BECOME YOUR MISSION.

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Happy Holidays  
*from all of us at Mordecai Land Trust*

Preserve

Prolong

Protect

*Photograph by Ralph Berglund*

*Mordecai Land Trust, P.O. Box 1414, Beach Haven, NJ 08008-0084*