

# Mordecai Matters



## 2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Miles for Mordecai*

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

### *Trustees Meeting*

Friday, June 13th  
7 PM, Molly Allison

### *House Tour/Cocktail Party*

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

### *Annual Meeting*

Sunday, August 24th  
5:30 PM followed by Cocktails  
at Molly Allison

### *Fall Clean-Up*

Saturday, September 20th  
9 AM—Noon  
In participation with International Coastal Clean-Up

### *Trustee Meeting*

Friday, September 26th, TBA

### *Casino Night*

Saturday, October 18th, 6 PM  
Beach Haven Fire Station

**NO WAKE MEANS NO WAVES.**  
The navigational channel on the western side of Mordecai Island is a No Wake Zone.

## MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH: BREAKWATER PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

If you look out over Mordecai at night in the near future you might see more than sunset or the dark outline of a skimmer. On the north end of the island there may be a silhouetted fence structure hugging the island and lights visible marking its position opposite the gap.

You will be looking at Mordecai's Breakwater Project.

In February this year the Trust was informed by the Army Corps (ACOE) and Congressman Jim Saxton's office that \$779,000 in funding for our north end of the island Breakwater project has been included in the ACOE 2008 budget.

This is exciting news for members of the Trust, who have been persistently pursuing funding since the organization's inception. According to John Cranmer, MLT President, "Securing the funding has taken 10 years. We've been working with Jim Saxton and local officials on this for a long time, but we're very excited about this project commencing in late 2008 or 2009."

Seventy-five percent of the project's \$1.3 million total cost will be paid for by the federal government. The remaining cost share (25 percent or approximately \$325,000) will be picked up by Mordecai Land Trust and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Coastal Engineering, which are the two co-sponsors of this project.

Saxton said, "We've been working patiently on this for a few years, and I'm pleased to announce it is finally taking shape. Mordecai Island is a haven for wildlife, but erosion is washing it away before our very eyes. This project is meant to stabilize the island as an ecosystem for various types of birds and marine wildlife."

The island has suffered from consider-

able erosion. Experts monitoring the problem estimate that three to six feet of the western side washes away each year. The island is habitat for a variety of species of wildlife. It provides forage areas for waterfowl, shore birds, birds of prey and wading birds.

"I'm pleased that the Army Corps of Engineers has decided to fund this project to completion," said Saxton, who has worked with the Corps to develop the project.

The island is close to the main navigational channel of the bay, the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway. A wooden breakwater will be constructed 200 feet offshore of the island to reduce wave impact in the area that has experienced the greatest erosion. The structure is similar to a picket fence, which will be held by pilings, and rise above the water surface.

The breakwater's unique design is based on wave testing of different breakwater models by the Stevens Institute in 2004. It will be marked with lighting for navigational safety. The design is nearly complete, and construction bids are expected to be solicited by the end of the year.

Many persons, including representatives (past and present) of the Borough of Beach Haven, Long Beach Township, Ocean County, New Jersey and the Federal government, the many dedicated scientists and engineers at ACOE, NJDEP, NOAA, USFWS and other state and local agencies, our members and sister conservation organizations too numerous to list, have been instrumental in moving the Project forward. Special mention goes to Bill Pilling, MLT Trustee and past President, and Art Barron, Executive Board member, who have worked with the ACOE and Saxton's office respectively. But no project of this complexity and scope happens without local community support.

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW TRUSTEES

The Mordecai Board is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented group of individuals. This year, we added several new members.

### **Dr. Jeffrey C. Hager, Executive Board**

Jeff Hager grew up in Doylestown Pa and developed an innate love and respect for the complexity of nature from farming. Jeff's activities include competitive and destination sailing, fishing, skiing, and hiking. He says, "any day on the water is a good day for me."

Jeff is a practicing vascular surgeon. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1983 and received his medical degree from PCOM in 1987. He received a Vascular Fellowship from DHLC in 1993. He is Board certified in General and Vascular Surgery and has been the Director of the vascular fellowship program at Deborah Heart and Lung Center for over 13 years.

Jeff is currently the President of the Medical Staff of SOCH. At home, Jeff lives year long across from Mordecai with his wife Libby and four daughters. He is "continually amazed by the diverse wildlife found on and around Mordecai throughout the year... from the skimmers to the seals and loons. Every month he sees a new group of inhabitants make Mordecai their home.

Jeff says, "to experience the complexity of this ecosystem throughout the year clearly emphasized to me the need to preserve and protect these sedge islands. I am a strong advocate of education. My goals are to educate the public so that we can all understand the priority these islands have on our world."

Mordecai is very proud to have Jeff on our Board.

### **Kathleen Birch, Trustee**

Kathleen Birch is a native of Long Beach Island. She remembers as a child exploring the bay, beach, and the many pristine pockets of nature no longer to be found on LBI. Kathleen is a Registered Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit of Atlanticare Regional Medical Center. She attended local schools, Ocean County College, and earned Bachelors in Nursing degree from Richard Stockton College. She is a member of many nursing organizations and chairs the Clinical Practice Council at ARMC.

Kathleen lives in Beach Haven Gardens with her dog Abby. She currently explores the bay through kayaking. She recalls participating in the very first Earth Day with her class, which sparked a life long interest in and commitment to ecology.

### **Mike Furman, Trustee**

Michael Furman is a summer resident of LBI and resides in the Webster Lagoon section of Beach Haven. He has a passionate appreciation and interest in the ecological condition

of the bay and ocean. At home, he is principal in Powelton Capital Management, a financial services firm based in NYC. He has been involved with finance for many years working at several Wall Street firms including Credit-Suisse and Salomon Brothers. Michael resides in the Cobble Hill section of Brooklyn with his wife, Susan, and four beautiful daughters.

### **Deb Harkness, Trustee**

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade math and science students at the Beach Haven School call our new trustee Mrs. Harkness. Deb has been teaching for 16 years. She did her undergraduate work at The College of NJ and later received a master's degree from William Paterson University. Before moving to Beach Haven, she taught middle school in Bergen County and in Brigantine.

Deb is also an environmental activist. She is a member of the NJ Marine Educators Association, an active member with "Re-Clam the Bay", and now a new board member of Mordecai Land Trust. Deb resides in Beach Haven with her husband, Dean, and three daughters.

### **Sharon Stefanoni, Trustee**

Sharon Stefanoni first came to LBI in 1988 when her parents purchased a summer home. She has been a year round resident of Beach Haven Park since 1995 where she lives with her husband, Craig, 13 year old daughter Allison and 9 year old son Nicholas. Sharon has spent the past 9 years volunteering her time throughout the community in various non-profit organizations, most notably the Garden Club of LBI. Her efforts in the garden club have included publicity, special projects, holiday tour of homes, service to seniors and starting a youth garden club.

Sharon also has served on a fundraising committee at the Loveladies Arts Foundation. She is corresponding secretary for UNICO, Hospitality Chairperson for the LBI PTA, PTA member of All Saints Regional Catholic School, and involved in the Intergenerational program at the LBI grade school. Sharon is the new chair of Mordecai's Fundraising Committee. She is also very involved in the Mordecai Walk that will take place on Memorial Day weekend. Having such a strong interest with educating children and caring for the environment, it is natural for Sharon to become an important part of Mordecai.

### **Sharon Twomey, Trustee**

Sharon Twomey retired from Southern Regional School District after 30 wonderful years as a teacher and guidance counselor. She has owned Song of the Sea, a gift store in Beach Haven, for the past 26 years, as well. Sharon was a founding member of the Alliance for a Living Ocean, and participated in Southern Regional's ecology club, and grass roots organizations such as Clean Ocean Action and the Marine Mammal Stranding Center. She loves living on beautiful and ecologically interesting Long Beach Island with her husband, John, and dog Kayla. Mordecai is very lucky to have someone as creative and energetic as Sharon on its Board.

## “MILES FOR MORDECAI” SAVING SPECIES ONE STEP AT A TIME

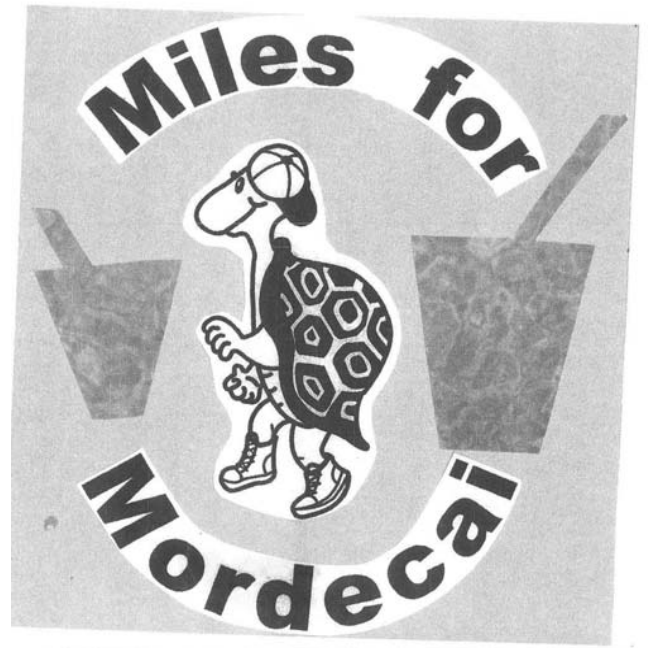
“Miles for Mordecai,” sponsored by the Trust’s Education Committee, is a first for us. We have reached out to the elementary schools on the island as well as Southern Regional High School. The event is a walk to start at the Little Egg Harbor yacht Club and go to the end of West Avenue and back.

The event to benefit Mordecai will be held on Saturday, May 24th, 9–11 AM. The fee is \$5 and includes a tee shirt, ice cream sundae and a raffle. Applications will be given out in the island elementary schools or participants can sign up the morning of the 24th at Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club.

The purpose of the walk, whose logo is “saving species one step at a time,” is to create an awareness of conservation and to work toward saving all our sedge islands.

Students from Southern Regional High School and members of the US Naval Sea Cadets in Beach Haven will be on hand to help with the event.

The rain date is the next day, May 25th. There is no age limit for participation. For information call 609-492-4963.



Our annual House Tour and Cocktail Party will be held on

### UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Saturday, July 19th, from 2-6 PM for the tour and 6-8 PM for the party. The cocktail party will be held at LEHYC.

Tickets can be purchased at Pettite Furniture, Wyndcrest, Coral Seas Motel, Song of the Sea, Pearl Street Market, Sink r Swim, and LEHYC, or by mailing the form on the back of this newsletter. Call 609-492-4153 for information.

Tickets are \$35 before the day and \$40 the day of. Tickets for just the cocktail party are \$20.

Our second event is something new. We will hold a "Casino

### BIRD’S EYE NEWS

- Trustees Linda Colgan and Jeff Hager were guest speakers at the Southern Ocean Rotary on April 23rd. The two attended the business luncheon at LA’s restaurant and gave a Power Point presentation on Mordecai’s history and projects to the group.
- The Trust gratefully acknowledges the continuing support of The Garden Club of LBI, who recently donated \$1,500 to Mordecai. The contribution will go toward our SWMER II project. The organization also donated \$150 worth of plants, which Mordecai volunteers will plant on the island this spring. Many thanks to this organization, which has consistently supported us for many years.

### SWMER II UPDATE

Mordecai Land Trust is hoping that in late summer or early fall 2008, it will undertake the most significant part of SWMER II. This involves the placement of two sand-filled geotube sills on the southern portion of Mordecai Island and is aimed at protecting 570 linear feet of its rapidly eroding coast.

The remaining portion of SWMER II is tentatively slated for spring 2009. This would include placement of shore-perpendicular current deflectors using biologs, geotextile mats and stakes as well as eelgrass, spartina and other plantings.

- MLT Trustee Margo Pellegrino will be the keynote speaker at Burlington County Library May 18th talking about her 2000 mile outrigger journey. Mordecai Land Trust, Surfrider Foundation, and Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge are also on the program. Details below.

Miami to Maine - An Outrigger Journey:

Enjoying and Preserving Our Waterways

Keynote: Margo Pellegrino will speak and show her multimedia documentary about her trip

Date/Time: 5/18/2008 / 2:00-4:30 PM

Location: Burlington County Library Headquarters  
5 Pioneer Blvd., Westampton, NJ 08060

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Beach Haven, NJ 08008-0084



Address Correction Required

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**We're on the web! Mordecaimatters.org**

**Mordecai Land Trust**

# *House Tour and Cocktail Party*

**Saturday, July 19th**

**TOUR 2-6 PM, COCKTAILS OVER MORDECAI AT LEHYC 6 TO 8 PM**

Please reserve _____ tickets for the house tour and cocktail party at \$35 each.	Total @ \$35	\$ _____
Please reserve _____ tickets for the cocktail party ONLY at \$20 each.	Total @ \$20	\$ _____
I am unable to attend, but enclosed is my tax deductible contribution \$ _____	Total enclosed	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cut off and mail to "Mordecai Land Trust." C/O House Tour, PO Box 1414, Beach Haven, NJ. 08008. Make your check payable to "Mordecai Land Trust." Call 609-492-4153 for more information. *Div. ABC Social Permit number pending.*