

Mordecai Matters



2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting

Followed by Cocktails
And Presentation:

Margo Pellegrino

An Outrigger Journey

Sunday, August 24th
5:30 PM

Molly Allison Sailing Center
West Avenue, Beach Haven

Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, September 20th
9 AM—Noon

In participation with International Coastal Clean-Up

Trustees Meeting

Friday, September 26th,
Location TBA

Casino Night

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

NEWEST PARTNERS EXPLORE THE ISLAND

Members of Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club's sailing class, the "C" Cruisers, spent a Tuesday afternoon on Mordecai August 12th learning about the island and becoming the Trust's newest partners in conservation.

The eleven and twelve year olds kayaked out to the southern end of the island with counselors Katherine Lundgren and Sam Gilbert to take pictures and help the Trust do some monitoring in the process. MLT trustee Linda Colgan acted as leader and guide for the group, while Trust photographer Gene



Ann Hook recorded the day's events .

The group took pictures of erosion along the waters' edge, made note of the distance from the shoreline to some of the stakes Trust members had placed along the island's perimeter, and learned firsthand about the biologists that were the core of the SWMER I project.

They also spent time exploring the abundance of life on the island, from plants to horseshoe crabs. Of course, the skimmers were out in full force over their beach area, letting the intruders know they were getting too close to their territory.

The group also gathered trash, taking several bags off the island on two Club Zodiacs at the end of the day.

The purpose of this newest collaboration between the Trust and the young sailors was to teach awareness of the island and the Trust's efforts to conserve it. Also, we wanted to create an ongoing partnership with the children,



Photo by Doug Gaffney

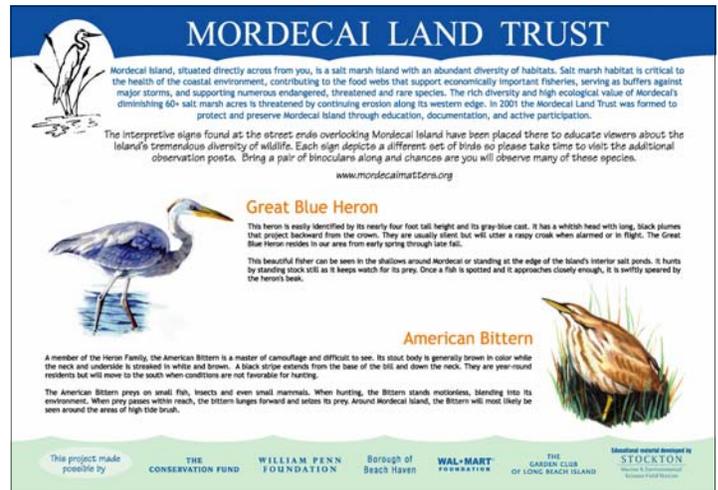
Skimmer hatchling

SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

New aluminum signs are in nearing completion for Pearl, Ocean, Pelham and Engleside Avenues. In addition, a replacement sign is being made for the one missing on Essex. Rich Oelkers and Steve Evert have been working on the project and hope to have the signs up by late summer or early fall.

The signs will depict artist renditions of Mordecai inhabitants such as the blue claw crab, summer flounder, and kingfisher, as well as spartina and eelgrass.

The new signs will augment the eleven signs already in place along the street ends in Beach Haven facing Mordecai.



Replacement for sign damaged on Essex Avenue.

SWMER II UPDATE

Doug Gaffney and Ed Gorleski, of Ocean and Coastal Consultants, made a site visit to the island on July 25th. The trip was made in preparation for working on a final plan for the SWMER II project this fall with a cost estimate.

According to Gaffney, "The good news is that the island still supports a thriving black skimmer population, and the vegetation is very healthy. The bad news is that on the western side, erosion continues unabated. The biologists are only left in a couple areas, and where they are left, they aren't really functioning. We now have the data and we will start analyzing it."

Gaffney also noted that erosion has progressed 2-6 feet behind the biologists.



Left and above: biologists on the southwestern shoreline of Mordecai at low tide. Photographs by Doug Gaffney.

“MILES FOR MORDECAI” MOVES MANY

A bright spring morning and the promise of an ice cream sundae may have been the incentive that brought out an impressive 290 walkers to Mordecai Land Trust’s first “Miles for Mordecai” walk, but everyone left having had a good time and with a new awareness of Mordecai Island.



Pat Miller

The purpose of the event, sponsored by the Trust’s Education Committee, was to create an awareness of conservation and to work toward saving all our sedge islands. Their motto, “saving species one step at a time,” was printed on the t-shirts designed by MLT trustee Missy Maschal and were given out as part of the registration fee. It summed up the message of the day.

The walk took place on Saturday morning of Memorial Day

weekend. Participants began at LEHYC on Berkeley Avenue and walked to the end of West Avenue and back. Event Co-chairs Pat Miller and Sharon Stefanoni were on hand to organize volunteers and participants, while Education Committee Chairman, Art Barron, gave announcements using his high-tech megaphone.



Art Barron with megaphone.

Beach Haven Elementary School sent a delegation, which was awarded a grade point for participation. In addition, members of the US Naval Sea Cadets stationed in Beach Haven attended and helped some of the youngest participants.

The Trust intends to make the walk an annual event.

HOUSE TOUR TOPS ALL EXPECTATIONS

This year’s July 19th House Tour was our best yet, with net earning expected to top approximately \$18,000. Over 500 tickets were sold, up from last year’s 400. Committee chair Sharon Stephanoni and committee members Pat Miller, Kathleen Birch, Linda Colgan, Gail Greenwald, Gene Ann Hook, Elaine Leonardi, Holly and Rick Lorah, Missy Maschal, Norrie and Rick Oelkers, Peg Stoldt, Marilyn Thomas and Sharon Twomey are to be congratulated for once again running an outstanding event.

Many thanks also to the homeowners, restaurants, persons and businesses who donated raffle items and, last but not least, to the over 100 volunteers who helped with the event. We couldn’t do it without you!



Skimmers defending their turf.

CASINO NIGHT

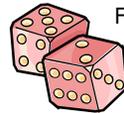
Beach Haven Fire House

Saturday, October 18th

6–10 PM

\$50 per person

Includes drinks and light fare



For ticket reservations call 609-492-4153

Benefit Mordecai Land Trust

ABC Social Permit # 08008747

BIRD’S EYE NEWS

- Thanks to Jeff Hager for spending a few hours on Mordecai planting the 60 plants donated by the LBI Garden Club this spring.
- The Trust thanks The Webster Lagoon Association, The Horn Family, William Pilling II, and the Summers Family Foundation for their generous donations.
- Total donations this year to date for education, SWMER, and memorials are over \$8,000. With the Breakwater and SWMER II projects about to begin, the Trust relies on these donation more than ever and is deeply grateful to our loyal supporters.

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Address Correction Required

Mordecai Matters

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Photographs by Gene Ann Hook, Doug Gaffney, and Jeanne Runne

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We're on the web! Mordecaimatters.org

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