

Mordecai Matters



2009 CALENDAR (PRELIMINARY)

Trustees Meeting (conference call)

Thursday, March 5, 7:30 PM

Miles for Mordecai

Saturday, May 23 (AM)
(Rain date, May 24)

Trustees Meeting

Friday, June 12, 7 PM
Molly Allison, Beach Haven

House Tour (3-6 PM)

Sunset Over Mordecai

(6-8 PM at LEHYC)
Saturday, July 20

Annual Meeting & Cocktail Party

Sunday, August 23, 5 PM

Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, September 19, 9-Noon
In participation with
International Coastal Clean-Up Day

Trustees Meeting

Friday, September 25
Molly Allison, Beach Haven

Casino Night

Saturday, October 10, 6 PM
Beach Haven Firehouse

Need a presentation for your group or organization? We do Power Point! For information email us at info@mordecaimatters.org

CASINO NIGHT ANOTHER ACE FOR FUNDRAISING

Mordecai Land Trust's Casino Night, held on October 18th at the Beach Haven Fire House, showed once again that the hard work and organizational skills of our Fundraising Committee paid off. With a full house of enthusiastic players taking their chances at the games set up by "Tumbling Dice," and with great food, drinks flowing, and an array of wonderful prizes to bid on, it was a winning night for everyone.

From a financial standpoint, the night was a success as well. Approximately 140 out of 150 tickets were sold and, with sponsors and additional income from players during the evening, net profits exceeded expectations.

In recent years the Trust's Fundraising Committee has become a year round working committee, generating at least two major fundraising events each year and continuously looking for new volunteers to help with planning and implementation. They have also been active in involving the community, believing local support is crucial to the success of any organization.

With major outlays expected in 2009 and beyond for SWMER II and our Breakwater

Project, the efforts of this well run committee will continue to be critical to the Trust.

Many thanks to those who sponsored Casino Night and to those who donated prizes. Our deep appreciation to our Fundraising Committee: Sharon Stefanoni, Chair; Kathleen Birch, Linda Colgan, Gail Greenwald, Elaine Leonardi, Holly and Rick Lorah, Missy Maschal, Pat Miller, Norrie and Rich Oelkers, Marilyn Thomas, and Sharon Twomey.



Pictured: MLT President Jeanne Runne; Fundraising Committee members Pat Miller, Missy Maschal, Gail Greenwald, and Chair Sharon Stefanoni.



A LETTER FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Jeanne Runne was elected as the newest President of the Mordecai Land Trust at the September Trustees meeting, succeeding John Cranmer. Jeanne has been a trustee and integral member of the organization for many years. She played a key role in obtaining grant money for funding the street-end signage project, SWMER I and the Southern Regional Middle School ecology field trip in 2006. Through these and related efforts Jeanne has become familiar with the priceless habitat of Mordecai Island and also established contacts with other area organizations that are focused on similar environmental concerns. Jeanne is an attorney who lives in Haddonfield, NJ and spends summers in Beach Haven.

Dear Friends of Mordecai,

As 2008 comes to a close more than anything else I want to express my gratitude for your continued interest in and support for Mordecai Island and Mordecai Land Trust. This year has been filled with many efforts - the Miles for Mordecai walk last May, the July House Tour, September Fall Clean Up and October Casino Night fundraiser - that helped to promote and expand awareness and appreciation of the natural treasure that is Mordecai. And, of course, each of those events didn't just take one day. They all involved months of planning, coordination and unselfish contributions of time and talents.

We have great hopes for 2009, including the completion of SWMER II, which will involve the installation of geotube sills off the southwestern shoreline of the island as well as place-

ment of additional biologists and plantings. Unforeseen delays affecting the outside contractor that bid to perform the installation unfortunately deferred the start of this effort. Progress on the long awaited Army Corps of Engineers Breakwater project is also expected in 2009 as is updating of our website and pursuing grants and funding opportunities. The 2009 Miles for Mordecai is already taking shape as are plans for the house tour and other fundraising activities. These events have become highly regarded in the community in addition to providing valuable financial assistance to MLT's efforts to retard and reverse Mordecai Island's erosion.

"Erosion" has recently taken on a new and more personal meaning in the current economic environment as people have witnessed the (hopefully temporary) shrinkage of their assets. And while this may make us even more sympathetic to the endangered denizens of Mordecai whose habitat is also diminishing, we at MLT also realize that charitable contribution choices are now more difficult. We, of course, hope that you will consider Mordecai Land Trust in any year-end giving decisions and likewise hope that your general support, interest and participation in Mordecai will continue.

Our very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy holiday season and new year. We look forward to your involvement with Mordecai matters in 2009!

Warm regards,

Jeanne Runne,

President, Mordecai Land Trust

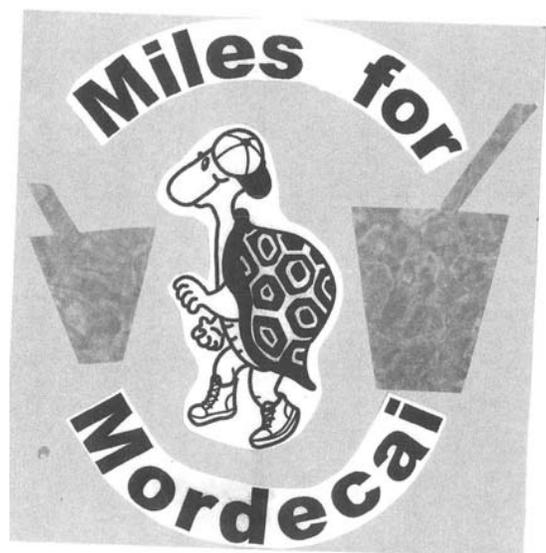
"MILES FOR MORDECAI" NEEDS HELP WITH PLANNING AND SPONSORSHIP

The second annual "Miles for Mordecai," scheduled for May 23rd (rain date, May 24th) is looking for volunteers to help with planning the event in April. Last year's walk, sponsored by the Trust's Education Committee, brought out 290 walkers. We anticipate a larger turn-out this year.

The walk is a fun family event, starting at Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club and going to the end of West Avenue and back. The \$5 per person entry fee includes a t-shirt and an ice cream sundae afterwards. It's purpose, 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.

Mordecai's Education Committee is a very small group that needs help with the preliminary work involved with this popular project.

If you would like to lend a hand as a volunteer or be a sponsor of this worthwhile event (we will put your name on the t-shirt), please call Chairman Pat Miller at 609 492-4963.



FALL CLEAN-UP NEVER FAILS TO DISAPPOINT

A group of twenty volunteers spent a cloudy September morning canvassing the island on International Coastal Clean-Up Day September 20th. Several participants noted that the island was in “pretty good shape” from a trash point of view, although everyone noted the obvious continuing erosion.



The day's haul.

Deb Harkness, a trustee and teacher at Beach Haven Elementary, was pleased to gather some horseshoe crab shells to take back for her class. Jeanne Runne, who acted as photographer as well as trash collector, discovered a piping plover who followed her around posing for pictures.

Thanks to everyone who came out to help and those who help organize the morning, and to Tony Colgan, who ferried volunteers to the island and back.



The Group about to head out to the island.



Pictured: Juban Runne and Tony Colgan; Margo Pellegrino in her outrigger; horseshoe crab shells; piping plover posing.

TRUST ANNOUNCES NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The members, Executive Committee and trustees of the Mordecai Land Trust have appointed and/or elected new officers, Executive Committee members and Trustees for terms beginning in 2008.

Officers, terms beginning October 1st, 2008:

- Jeanne Runne, President;
- Dr. Jeffrey Hager, 1st Vice-President
- Michael Furman, 2nd Vice-President
- Richard G. Oelkers, Secretary
- Marilyn Thomas, Treasurer
- Patricia Miller, Membership.

Executive Committee (4 years) expires October of year

- Jeanne Runne, 2009
- John Cranmer, 2010

Dr. Jeffrey Hager 2011

Art Barron, 2012

Mayor Tom Stewart, ex officio

Michael Furman 2012

Doug Walker, 2009

The following trustees were appointed:

- Dr. Pat Daggy 2009
- Melissa Maschal 2009
- Richard Oelkers 2009
- Kathleen Birch 2010
- Linda Colgan 2010
- Deb Harkness 2010
- Margo Pelligrino 2010
- Sharon Stefanoni 2010
- Sharon Twomey 2010
- Michael Davis 2011
- Patricia Herrmann 2011
- Patricia Miller 2011
- William Pilling 2011
- Marilyn Thomas 2011

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Address Correction Required

Mordecai Matters

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Photographs by Ralph Berglund, Gene Ann Hook, and Jeanne Runne
Email: info@mordecaimatters.org*

We're on the web! Mordecaimatters.org



Great Blue Heron on Mordecai by Ralph Berglund

Happy Holidays
from our family of officers, trustees,
and volunteers of
The Mordecai Land Trust