

Mordecai Matters



2009 UPCOMING EVENTS

Miles for Mordecai

Saturday, May 23,
(rain date Sunday, May 24)
West Avenue at LEHYC,
Beach Haven

Trustees Meeting

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

House Tour/Cocktail Party

Saturday, July 18
Tour 2 to 6 PM
Cocktail Party 6 to 8
at LEHYC

Annual Meeting and Cocktail Party:

Sunday, August 23,
5:30 PM Molly Allison

Fall Clean Up

(in conjunction with
International Coastal
Clean-Up Day)
Saturday September 19,
9 AM - noon
(meet at Molly Allison)

Casino Night Fundraiser

Saturday, October 10,
Beach Haven Fire House

Trustees Meeting

Friday, September 25,
evening, Molly Allison

Please help us keep you up to date on "Mordecai Matters" and Mordecai activities. Send your email address to info@mordecaimatters.org. We will use it strictly for Mordecai purposes.

Flurry of Activity on Breakwater and SWMER II Projects

There has been lots of activity on the Army Corps of Engineering's "Breakwater Project" recently. Permitting requirements and weather conditions generally limit the "window" for installing the Breakwater to the fall/early winter and this, in combination with various funding and other issues to be resolved, may defer installation to the fall of 2010. Given the Army Corps's current focus on the project, however, it is possible that installation could commence in the fall of 2009.

As has been reported in prior issues of *Mordecai Matters* and discussed at various MLT Annual Meetings of its members, the installation of the Breakwater Project (which primarily consists of an open-slat, fence-like structure off shore of the "cut" separating the northern and southern portions of Mordecai Island) would be supervised by the Army Corps with costs to be shared among the Army Corps, the NJ DEP and Mordecai Land Trust.

Federal funding for the Army Corps' 75% portion of the funding (based on original total cost estimates of approximately \$1.3 million) was approved in 2008. The remaining 25% is divided between the NJ DEP (75%) and Mordecai Land Trust (25%). State funding of the NJ DEP share of original cost estimates has also been ap-

proved and Mordecai Land Trust raised its portion some time ago.

In recent communications and meetings with the Army Corps and NJ DEP, MLT has learned that the cost of the Breakwater Project could be significantly more than originally assumed. Each of the participants would still be responsible for the same proportionate share as before. Federal and State approval of the additional amounts they would be responsible for is expected but not yet confirmed. MLT can fund its share of the higher amount but this could necessitate a postponement of the SWMER II Project, which we otherwise hoped to get underway in 2009. SWMER II, which builds on the lessons learned from the SWMER I biologic installation in 2006, would involve, among other things, the installation of large, sand-filled "geotube sills" that would protect and deter erosion on 570 feet of shoreline on the southwestern end of Mordecai.

We will continue to seek funding opportunities and grant possibilities to enable us to proceed with both major efforts. We will also continue to work cooperatively with the Army Corps, NJ DEP and the government and citizens of Beach Haven as things develop.



High tide on Mordecai Island looking west from Molly Allison docks, September 2008. The south end of the island is nearly submerged. Photo by Ralph Berglund.

Board Members Go To School

To spread awareness and generate interest in the upcoming *Miles for Mordecai* event, on March 31st Margo Pellegrino, Pat Miller and Jeanne Runne visited the Beach Haven School and Eagleswood Township Elementary School in West Creek.

Margo is a trustee of MLT but is much better known for the phenomenal “Miami to Maine” kayak adventure she had during the summer of 2007. At each stop along her way up the eastern seaboard (including one for Mordecai), Margo received extensive media coverage of her exhilarating (and often grueling) journey and her crusade to attract attention to the state of our oceans and coastal waters as well as what we can do to improve and protect them. As this issue of *Mordecai Matters* goes to press, Margo is actually on another multi-state coastal paddle, this time from Miami to New Orleans.

The Beach Haven and Eagleswood students were captivated and



Above: students from Eagleswood Township Elementary School pose with Margo Pellegrino.



Eagleswood students are a rapt audience as Margo talks about her kayaking expedition.

inspired by Margo’s “Miami to Maine” presentation. Their curiosity about things like what she saw, what she ate, and whether she was scared kept things very lively and the kids very engaged.

It served as an ideal introduction to the Mordecai presentations made by MLT trustee and education committee co-chair Pat Miller and MLT president Jeanne Runne, which featured information about why Mordecai is such an ecological treasure and included slides of other student groups exploring Mordecai Island.

Beach Haven School science teacher and MLT trustee Deb Harkness integrated material from both presentations with what her students are studying. Examples of student science projects that relate to Mordecai will be on display at the *Miles for Mordecai* run on Saturday, May 23rd.

Young Volunteer Wins Award for Mordecai

Megan Maschal, daughter of board member Missy Maschal, won the Violet Richardson Award of \$100 given by Soroptimist International of LBI in January. Soroptimist International is the world's largest classified service organization for executive and professional business women. Megan was awarded the prize for an essay she wrote on Mordecai Island. Mordecai Land Trust was the recipient of the award.

The service organization awards young women whose volunteer efforts include cleaning up the environment as well as other good deeds. Megan, a senior honors student at Southern Regional High School, has been a frequent volunteer for Mordecai for several years, helping with clean-ups and other events.

We are fortunate to be part of Megan’s award and salute this young woman for her achievement. We also thank Megan for her year’s of service to Mordecai Land Trust.



Megan Maschal

Margo on the Water Again

MLT board member Margo Pellegrino is on the road again, or we should say, in the water. She paddled her outrigger canoe into the Intracoastal Waterway from the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Fort Pierce, Florida, on April 21st. She hopes to reach her destination of New Orleans, a six week journey of nearly 1,000 miles, by May 21st.

Margo hopes her trip will bring the Healthy Oceans Act one step closer to reality. She is partnering with the National Resources Defense Council to travel down the Intracoastal Waterway to Florida Bay, through the Everglades to the Gulf Coast, up to Tampa Bay, through the Nature Coast, and along the coastal bend and Panhandle before reaching New Orleans. She intends to paddle about 32 miles per day, weather permitting, and will stay in a hotel at night or with someone offering a room.

This is Margo's third major Save Our Seas canoe trip. In 2007 she completed a nearly 2,000 mile expedition from Miami to Maine.



MILES FOR MORDECAI

“Saving Species One Step at a Time”

9:00 AM, Saturday, May 23rd

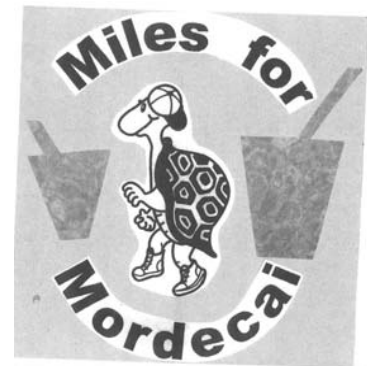
Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club

\$5.00 entry fee includes T-shirt, make your own ice cream sundae and a chance to win prizes. Drawing and ice cream will immediately follow the walk from LEHYC down West Avenue

No roller blades, bikes, skateboards or heelys are permitted. All children must be supervised by a chaperone.

For information and an entry form please call Pat at 609-492-4963.

Rain date Sunday, May 24th.



New Signs for Summer

Check out the proof of one of the four new street signs to be installed at street ends facing Mordecai in Beach Haven this summer. A fifth sign will be reinstalled to replace one vandalized on Essex Avenue.

The signs were designed by the Graphics department of Richard Stockton College, with artist renderings of the inhabitants of the island and information about them, as well as about the island and the Trust.

MORDECAI LAND TRUST

Blue Crab
Blue crabs, long legs, dark green shells with white spots at each end and large blue and red claws. Like all crustaceans, they shed their shells to increase their size. During the molting process, they are vulnerable for up to 24 hours, making them vulnerable to predators. If taken from the water while soft they will remain so, making them a favorite delicacy of coastal humans. Signs can be identified by the shape of their underside that resembles an ellipse. The underside of females carries a mottled and patterned design.

Summer Flounder
Summer flounder are called "flats" because of their flat shape. They are a flatfish and their eyes are located on the left side of their head. Their bodies are generally brown in color with many darkened spots and their undersides are white. They are experts at bottom camouflage, using their long dorsal and anal fins to burrow into the sand and avoid prey. They inhabit estuarine and coastal waters during the summer, moving to deeper offshore waters during the fall and winter months. They can grow to over 36 inches and weigh up to 18 pounds.

IBRA NEW JERSEY SOCIETY

WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION

WAL-MART

THE GARDEN STATE

STOCKTON

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



Address Correction Required

Mordecai Matters

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We're on the web! Mordecaimatters.org

Mordecai Land Trust

House Tour and Cocktail Party

Saturday, July 18th

TOUR 2-6 PM, COCKTAILS PARTY 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 \$25 each.	Total @ \$25	\$ _____
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.*