

Mordecai Matters



2009–2010 Calendar

Fall Clean Up

(in conjunction with
International Coastal
Clean-Up Day)

Saturday September 19,
9 AM - noon
(meet at Molly Allison)

Trustees Meeting

Friday, September 25, 7PM
Molly Allison

MLT Table at Chowderfest's Merchant Mart

Saturday, October 3
10 AM–4 PM
Taylor Ave. Ball Field
Beach Haven

Casino Night Fundraiser

Saturday, October 10, 6 PM
Beach Haven Fire House

Trustees Meeting (Conference Call)

Thursday, March 4, 7:30 PM

Miles for Mordecai

Saturday, May 22 (AM)
Raindate, May 23

Trustees Meeting

Friday, June 11, 7 PM
Molly Allison

House Tour & Sunset Over Mordecai Cocktail Party

Saturday, July 17
Tour 2–6 PM
Cocktail 6–8 at LEHYC

Annual Meeting followed by Cocktail Party

Sunday, August 22, 5 PM

HOUSE TOUR ONCE AGAIN A BEAUTIFUL DAY

Participants in July 18th's 5th Annual House Tour and Cocktail Party were the beneficiaries of blue skies and perfect temperatures as they toured six beautiful houses in the afternoon and ended the evening at Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club, enjoying the reddened golds of sun setting over Mordecai Island.

An estimated 400 toured houses and attended the cocktail party, a record number for the fundraiser. It was an important financial as well as a social success for the Trust.

The House Tour has truly become a community event, thanks to the contributions from



Trustee Bill Pilling, President Jeanne Runne and Ben Giovine, aide to NJ 3rd District Congressman John Adler.

many local restaurants and businesses, and the MLT trustees of food and prizes for the cocktail party, along with close to 80 volun-



A crowd of close to 400 attended the cocktail party.

teers acting as docents in the houses, working as bartenders or in the kitchen, serving food, and manning ticket tables.

To these generous supporters, and to the homeowners who so kindly opened their beautiful homes to us, our greatest thanks. Last but certainly not least, to our amazing Fundraising Committee, our continued gratitude to a job beyond well done.

“WE ARE SO CLOSE”

The following is a summary of a report given by Mordecai Trustee Bill Pilling at the Annual Meeting on August 23rd.

We are so close! The plans for the Army Corps breakwater project are almost 100% complete. The Army Corps is going through last comments received from the various resource agencies.

While the estimated cost of the breakwater project has increased from the previously estimated \$1.3 million to approximately \$3 million in total, we understand the additional federal funds have been set aside. This also means that the local sponsors—NJDEP Engineering & Construction and Mordecai Land Trust (MLT)—must allocate additional funds toward the project.

We have not heard whether the NJDEP Engineering & Construction has allocated the additional funds, but understand this is likely to happen given the 75% federal funding. MLT has set aside its additional share, but this has required MLT to postpone phase two of SWMER until we can raise additional funds for

SWMER (approximately \$50K).

The other development is that NJDEP Engineering & Construction is investigating with the resource agencies whether use of a rock breakwater might be an acceptable alternative. When the breakwater project was first considered a number of alternatives were on the table, including a rock breakwater design proposed by Dr. Stew Farrell of the Coastal Research Center, which has proved effective in the Chesapeake and James River.

However, the timber breakwater was the only solution for which permits could be obtained because of its smaller footprint (less potential impact on eel grass), even though a rock breakwater likely would be more effective in protecting Mordecai Island. This is not to say a timber breakwater would not work (almost every marina has one), but a rock breakwater would be more effective and require less maintenance. We are waiting to hear from NJDEP Engineering & Construction about the results of their inquiry. Stay tuned!

MLT Hosts Littoral Society

President Jeanne Runne and Past Presidents Rich Oelkers and Linda Colgan hosted Bill Shadel of the American Littoral Society and his guest Elsa Carlisle of Restore America's Estuaries on July 30th, making a site visit to the island. Mordecai's SWMER I was one of the projects that the Littoral Society was involved in through their NOAA-RAE (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Restore America's Estuaries) Partnership.

Bill is the Habitat Restoration Program Director for the American Littoral Society's mid-atlantic chapter. More information about the organization can be found at www.littoralsociety.org.



Elsa Carlisle, Linda Colgan, and Bill Shadel



MILES FOR MORDECAI walkers gather for the Memorial Day weekend event. Sponsored by MLT's Education Committee, the awareness raising walk brought out an enthusiastic crowd of families, pets & spectators.

Thanks to Our Contributors

The Mordecai Land Trust thanks the following for their generous donations to the 2009 House Tour and Cocktail Party:

Barry's Do Me A Flavor, The Beach House, Beachside Café & Grill, Bistro 14, The Boat House, Buckalews, Coral Seas Motel, Crust & Crumb Bakery, The Engleside, Farias Surf & Sport, LEHYC, Panzone's, Pearl Street Market, Pinziminio's, Rommels, The Seashell, Stefano's, Sweet Jenny's, MLT Trustees, Tuckers, Unimac Graphic, Uncle Will's, Wyndecrest Home.

Taking it on the Road

May 16th: We kicked off the season by giving our newly updated PowerPoint presentation to an audience at the LBI Foundation in Loveladies as part of their Science Saturday. Linda Colgan and Jeanne Runne were presenters.

July 8th: The same team of Colgan and Runne were back at the Foundation for the day as part of Barnegat Bay Day, this time networking with a host of other non-profit organizations as well as running an informational slide show.

July 25th: New Jersey's tall ship, the A. J. Meerwald, came to Beach Haven to take people for a sail, and Mordecai Land Trust set up shop down at the dock with ReClam the Bay and Alliance for a Living Ocean.

We also displayed our new banner and samples of our street end signs.

August 12th: Jeanne Runne manned a table at LBI Township's "Waterfest," and, displaying replicas of all 17 street-end signs with maps indicating where they could be found, encouraged people to take the 17-block signage tour.



Deb Harkness and Linda Colgan July 25th.

Student Walks for Mordecai

This spring, Brendan Schroeder's 5th grade class at Lafayette Avenue School in Chatham, NJ, was selecting favorite charities for a class walk-a-thon. According to Brendan, most of his classmates chose "sickness and stuff." But this student, son of Lisa and Andrew Schroeder, who spends his summers on Berkeley Avenue in Beach Haven, thought of a different charity in need of help.

"I chose Mordecai because it's eroding," he said. "I noticed the little tiny island (an area separated from Mordecai at the southern end) and how shallow and eroded it is there."

His fellow students didn't understand the concept of erosion, he said. "They thought I was saving birds. They didn't think it was important, but my teacher knew it was."

Important enough that in early June the Mordecai Land Trust received a check from Brendan of the 5th grade class at Lafayette Avenue School, a donation to the organization from his part in the class walk-a-thon.

Brendan, who sails an Optimist Pram in the summer, has sailed around the island many times, and is well aware of the erosion and its impact on the natural environment of its inhabitants. He has yet

to explore the island on land, but we think, for this budding conservationist, it's only a matter of time.

And for that, and for this young man's generosity and enthusiasm, we are very thankful.



Brendan making a splash.

LEHYC C-Cruisers Visit the Island on Annual Trek



The "C-Cruisers," 11 and 12 year old sailors from Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club, kayaked to southwestern Mordecai Island on August 16th. For some this was the second expedition, as Head Counselor Kathryn Lundgren organized the first trip last July.

After a short PowerPoint presentation by MLT trustee Linda Colgan back at the Molly, the group of eleven kayakers, 2 counselors; Kathryn Lundgren and Brian Reilly, and MLT representatives Linda Colgan and photographer Gene Ann Hook, made their way out to the island for the afternoon.



Looking at biolog stakes.

Although the day was beautiful, bright with sun and light breezes, it was a quieter Mordecai this year. The Skimmers, normally loud and ready to show off with their outstanding aerobatics if anyone gets close to what we call Skimmer Beach, were gone. A high tide earlier

in the year washed away most of the eggs and fledgling colony, according to the Audubon Society. We hope they return next year.

Another bad sign was the state of some of the stakes (markers we place 10 feet from the edge of the waterline to measure erosion). Some of them were very near the edge and dangerously close to disappearing.



Stakes on shaky ground.

On a brighter note, the remnants of our biologists were still intact in several places, meaning that, at least in those areas, the water's edge is stable for the moment.

The group walked the shoreline, stopping to look at bird tracks and abandoned bird eggs. Bay heather was just beginning to come into bloom, although most of the kids didn't know what it was. Gene Ann Hook snapped pictures while they picked up small shells and climbed on the disintegrating boat that is currently a popular item of interest on the island. They discovered one of the inland ponds near Terrapin Beach and learned a little about what's happening to eelgrass (dying) and observed calving (the island breaking off in chunks) firsthand.

All in all, a good day on Mordecai: a day to observe her natural life and how much she harbors, but also to see how much she has lost.

A quiet day.



Mordecai Land Trust
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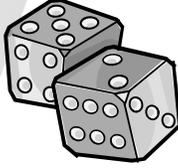
Mordecai Matters

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Linda L. Colgan, Richard G. Oelkers, Jeanne Runne, Editors
Photographs by Gene Ann Hook and Jeanne Runne
Email: info@mordecaimatters.org*

We're on the web! Mordecaimatters.org

Benefit for Mordecai Land Trust
CASINO NIGHT
 Saturday, October 10, 2009
6-10 PM
 Beach Haven Fire House
 Amber & Bay Avenue, Beach Haven NJ 08008

\$50 per person
 Includes drinks, light fare
 and \$25 gambling chip
 Presented by **TUMBLING DICE**



Please reserve _____ tickets for Casino Night at \$50 each. Total @ \$50 \$ _____

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 Casino Night, PO Box 1414, Beach Haven, NJ. 08008. Make your check payable to "Mordecai Land Trust." Call 609-492-4153 for more information. State # 25-5-37177 Local # RL10-2009 Alcohol # 10001573.