

Mordecai Matters



2010 UPCOMING EVENTS

Miles for Mordecai

Saturday, May 29th,
(rain date Sunday, May 30th)
West Avenue at LEHYC,
Beach Haven

Trustees Meeting

Friday, June 11th, 7 PM,
Molly Allison, Beach Haven

Sunset Over Mordecai Cocktail Party Fundraiser

Saturday, July 17th
6 to 8 PM at LEHYC

Annual Meeting Followed by cocktails

Sunday, August 22nd,
5 PM, Molly Allison

Fall Clean -Up

(in conjunction with
International Coastal
Clean-Up Day)
Saturday September 18th,
9 AM - noon
(meet at Molly Allison)

Casino Night Fundraiser

Saturday, October 9th,
Beach Haven Fire House

Trustees Meeting

Sunday, October 10th,
11 AM, location TBA

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.

MORDECAI'S NEW SEASON: STAYING THE COURSE AND NEW BEGINNINGS

This issue of *Mordecai Matters* marks the beginning of a new summer season and, we hope, the revival of activity that will help protect and save Mordecai Island.

As previously reported, we learned last spring from the Army Corps of Engineers that the estimated cost of the Breakwater Project (of which 75% was to be borne by the Army Corps of Engineers with the remaining 25% to be shared on a $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ basis by the NJ DEP and Mordecai Land Trust) had increased substantially (from approximately \$1.3 to \$3 million) while the scope of the project's length had been reduced.

The Breakwater Project is intended to deter further erosion of portions of Mordecai Island flanking the "cut" that separates the two large portions of the island. The operative design for the Breakwater had been a slatted timber breakwater, which had been viewed as the most effective design that could obtain required permits.

The prospective financial impact to Mordecai Land Trust of the cost increase made it advisable to defer the launch of "SWMER II", our other major project involving geotubes, biologs and current deflectors, aimed at deterring erosion of bay-facing areas further south on Mordecai, where the biolog installation occurred in 2006.

As has also been previously reported, these developments prompted a re-examination of the Breakwater design by the NJ DEP and a consideration of whether there might be alternatives (e.g., a rock breakwater) that were both effective and permissible. After a period of internal analysis, the NJ DEP did not offer any suggested alternative design.

During the past few months, we have been working with the Army Corps on possible alternative designs that may prove effective. Once preliminary plans are available, we would together approach the NJ DEP.

We are very grateful to the Army Corps for



their continued interest and involvement and we are also hopeful that an alternative design acceptable to the NJ DEP will result. Under the best of circumstances, however, this process will still take time.

For all these reasons, we hope to put SWMER II back on the "front burner" while continuing our focus on moving the Breakwater Project forward.

We recognize and share your disappointment and frustration with the slow pace of things. We believe that we are doing what we can to keep these projects alive.

On a cheerier note, we hope that the youngsters in your family will participate in the 3rd Annual Miles for Mordecai Walk scheduled for Saturday, May 29th. Additional information about the event appears elsewhere in this *Mordecai Matters*.

We are also looking forward to our fundraiser on Saturday July 17th, which this year will be the "Sunset Over Mordecai" cocktail party at LEHYC.

Over the course of this season we also hope to organize various activities on and about Mordecai and we encourage your participation.

Thank you very much for your continued interest and support.

Jeanne Runne, MLT President

The Trust Goes to Chowderfest

Members of the Trust were on hand last October to man our first Chowderfest booth in Beach Haven. Board members Mike Davis, Linda Colgan, Pat Daggy and Patti Herrmann were on hand to set up, break down and spread the word about the Trust. Despite the very soggy weather that day (no problem for all of us who have been out to the island), we gave out a considerable amount of information and answered many questions about our island! Pictured below and to the right are Pat Daggy and Patti Herrmann.



Pat and Patti displaying our "book of signs," samples of the species signs at the ends of West Avenue.

Thanks to our Fall Clean-Up Volunteers



They may be a ragtag crew and the weather doesn't always cooperate, but it's always worthwhile in the end, and one never knows what treasures the island will yield, natural or otherwise.

Last September, 17 intrepid individuals participated in the 09 fall clean-up as part of International Coastal Clean-Up. Thanks to the following in non-alphabetical order for mucking around the island, trash bags in hand, and helping to keep our island as pristine as possible: Jeanne and Juhan Runne, Linda and Tony Colgan, Laurie, Mike, JD and Drew Messler, Jeff Hager, Deb and Jessica Harkness, Melissa Baldino, Bill Herrmann, Pat and Ed Miller, Tricia Turner, and Pat Daggy.

Many thanks for your spirit of cooperation and hard work!



Left: spartina, one of the marsh grasses that grows on Mordecai Island. Information about this grass can be found on one of our street signs on West Avenue.

GARDEN CLUB OF LBI LENDS SUPPORT

Once again, Mordecai Land Trust has been the very fortunate recipient of a grant from The Garden Club of Long Beach Island. The \$1500 grant we've received may be used to help fund either the Breakwater or SWMER II projects. The Garden Club has been a loyal and generous booster of Mordecai Land Trust since the beginning, helping us with the signage project, SWMER I, and plantings among other efforts. We are very grateful for their continued financial support and involvement.

3rd Annual MILES FOR MORDECAI Adds Games and Signs to Walk

MILES FOR MORDECAI

"Saving Species One Step at a Time"

9:00 AM, Saturday, May 29th

Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club

If you are looking for a fun family event on Memorial Day weekend, you may be interested in Mordecai Land Trust's Miles for Mordecai walk. The Saturday, May 29th event starts at 9 AM (rain date Sunday, May 30th) at LEHYC and will head down West Avenue and back.

This year the walk will also include visits to some of the street end signs that feature pictures and information about Mordecai's plant, fish and bird species (some endangered). This year entrants will also get to participate in the "Mordecai Matching Challenge," a fun way to learn more about Mordecai's environmental treasures.

\$5.00 entry fee includes a T-shirt and an ice cream sundae.



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. To sign up on the day of the event, please arrive by 8:30 AM.

Beach Haven Recognizes the Importance of Mordecai Island

The Borough of Beach Haven has officially reaffirmed its recognition of the importance of Mordecai Island and the value it provides not only as habitat for a variety of important bird, fish and plant species but also as a protective barrier against storms and high tide events. At their January meeting, the Beach Haven Commissioners adopted a resolution modeled closely after a resolution initially adopted in 2000, just before the formation of Mordecai Land Trust. We are very grateful for the Borough's recognition of Mordecai's significance and the importance of attempts to stabilize its erosion.



Calving effect, northwestern shoreline, September, 2009.

Mordecai Land Trust
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Address Correction Required

Mordecai Matters

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We're on the web! Mordecaimatters.org

Mordecai Land Trust
Sunset Over Mordecai Cocktail Party
Saturday, July 17th, 6 to 8 PM
LITTLE EGG HARBOR YACHT CLUB

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$30 each Total @ \$30 \$ _____

(Tickets are available the day of at \$35 each)

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 Cocktail Party, 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.

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