

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

## Shack Gets a Site of Its Own; Donations Now Being Accepted

A new effort to restore the crumbling Causeway Shack landmark has arrived this month in the form of a web site, savetheshack.com.

Though widely considered the second most recognizable landmark for Long Beach Island, the Shack is actually located on Bonnet Island, within Stafford Township. The Stafford Township Historical Society is now seeking donations through the website to rebuild the Shack.

Jim Yuhas of Barnegat Township has been a moving force to prevent the landmark from disappearing. He has detailed knowledge of the structural integrity of the one time gunning shack and residence, and he estimates it will not remain standing through the spring unless something is done.

"It's feeling the effects of winter, for

sure," Yuhas said.

Yuhas also believes one does not need to know a detailed history of the Shack in order to save what he called its "underestimated historical significance." For Yuhas, restoring the Shack and making sure it remains in public view is enough.

"All you have to do is glance over, and you get it," Yuhas said.

Linda Bonvie of Little Egg Harbor owns her own web design company, Sundew Creative, which lists Alliance for a Living Ocean among prior clients. She volunteered to create savetheshack.com and hopes it will double as an online window through which viewers may gaze upon what she expects will be hundreds of photographs and works of art depicting the Shack throughout the years.

An early example has come from Trish Craig, an upstate New York resident, who submitted a photo of the Shack from 1979 – a time when it was in much better shape. It depicts young people having fun there.

Once she collects more submissions, Bonvie will post her collection and invite comments from the public.

"She did a beautiful job," Yuhas said.

Bonvie also plans to feature articles to give site visitors a detailed history of the Shack, along with current news about efforts to restore it.

Those wishing to make online submissions can do so easily by following the links on the web site for uploading files.

"I really enjoy seeing (the Shack) when I drive by," said Bonvie, who

has lived in the LEH area for 21 years. She was also particularly sold on the concept of the Shack being restored, using as much of its original material as possible to ensure it remains a "true example of the Shack."

In September, Yuhas had New York-based architect Joe Barillo draw up detailed renderings of what would be a restored Shack. The next step will be to find someone who can estimate the total cost of the restoration. —*M.M.*