

# Duneland

## PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



Meetings held at

**SUNSET HILL FARM COUNTY PARK**

**Horton Educational Center**

755 Meridian Road

Valparaiso, Indiana

1st Tuesday of the month / 5-8 pm

## MAY 2025

President | STEVE BENSING

Vice-President | TERRY FAIRCHILD

Treasurer | DAN RUGGABER

Secretary | PATRICE LAWSON

Assistant Secretary | TERESA MCGINLEY

Exhibit Organizer | DINA HEIJSELAAR

Program Coordinator |

New Member Rep | SUZAN PERRY

Parks Dept. Rep. | BARB RUSS

Public Relations | PEGGY CARTER

Newsletter | TERESA SHEPPARD

Special Events | PEGGY CARTER

Webmaster/Zoom Master | JOHN MOORE

Mentor Coordinator | TERRY FAIRCHILD

Projectionist/Meeting Tech | ROBERT EVANS

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## MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the Duneland Photography Club will be Wayne Richard Pope leading a lesson on "Basic Smartphone Photography: Learn How to Capture Better Photos and Edit, Save, and Share Them with Family."

The meeting is Tuesday, May 6th at Sunset Hill Farm County Park in the Horton Family Education Center. at 6:00pm. Doors open at 5:00pm for mentoring.



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Photography is the art of capturing moments and pieces of the world around us, using light. When we take a photo, we cut a slice of life. The question all photographers face is, “How do I choose that moment, that part of reality, that I want to represent in my picture?” The act of making that decision about what to include in my image is called editing.

The question is not “Should I edit my photos?”, but “How should I edit my work?” There are two main opportunities to edit. The first is when I take the photo with my camera. The second is doing something with that image afterwards.

It should be apparent that the most important type of editing involves the use of the camera. I decide where I will point the camera. I choose the subject, the viewpoint, the composition (what I want to include in the frame and how it enhances or detracts from my subject), the lighting, cropping (moving closer or farther away), and many other things. There are also technical issues that I must consider, for example, what lens to use (wide angle or telephoto, etc.), the shutter speed (stopping the action or creating blur), the focus (what do I focus on?), the aperture (how much of the image do I want in focus?), the ISO (how much light do I have available?), and so on. These decisions are critical. Many things cannot be changed after the fact. For instance, if I take a photo in front of a subject, I cannot change the angle afterwards and see it from the side. If I use a slow shutter speed, I cannot fix my blurred moving subject.

The second type of editing involves taking the captured image and doing something with it. With those who use film, a negative is developed and a final print is made in a darkroom. How that print turns out depends on the editing choice made, such as cropping,

darkening or lightening the image, adjusting the color, etc. With digital photography a similar process is used. Instead of a negative, the camera produces a computer file. That file can be edited, using software, to achieve the desired result. In simple terms, I can edit by cropping, adjusting lighting, color, etc. I can make changes, but I cannot “fix” a bad image that is out of focus or taken from a bad angle. Nevertheless, I can enhance a good image to best show my vision of what I want to portray.

At the Duneland Photography Club we help each other learn to take better photos. This starts with learning to use our tool, the camera. Then we learn how to edit this image to make a finished product. This picture should then convey our perception, so others can visualize the story we want to tell.

Steve Bensing,  
*President*



The Duneland Photography Club is a group of individuals helping each other improve their photography skills through classes, photoshoots, meetings, individual mentoring, community service, and other activities.

For more information, contact the club at [DunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com](mailto:DunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/dunelandphotoclub](https://facebook.com/dunelandphotoclub)



# APRIL MEETING RECAP

Program speaker for the meeting was Joel Alderson. The topic was “Finding Cool Subjects”.

Joel began his presentation by talking about how he got into photography. His Dad was a photographer in the Navy and was also a portrait photographer, so Joel has been around photography all his life. He engaged us by asking what we like to photograph. Then Joel shared with the club some of his “Cool” photos such as gears from a photocopying machine to surf boards on a stormy day and an image of a rusty mailbox being taken over by wild growing vines. The message throughout his presentation was clear: be on the watch for images

that are interesting, show emotion, and capture a bit of history. We should photograph using different perspectives and always be aware of the composition. Take advantage of the golden hour and capture your subject using beautiful light. This will enhance texture and shadows in your work. Most importantly, he encouraged us to get out and take photos!

Show and Tell theme was Creative Photos. Many members participated in the evening’s show and tell including Paul Ewing, Tom Mathewson, Derek Viehman, John Roquet, Steve Bensing, Matt Kowalski, Scott Harness, Patrice Lawson, and Terry Fairchild.



# PORTER COUNTY PARKS CALENDAR



Dina Heijsseler | 1st Place  
Brincka Cross Gardens



Carol Estes | 2nd Place  
Brincka Cross Gardens



Yuli Soeter | 3rd Place  
Brincka Cross Gardens

Take photos at Porter County Parks for the upcoming calendar. Submit (up to) three high resolution photos to

DunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com with subject line of PARKS CALENDAR.

Include the name of the park where each photo was taken.

Sunset Hill Farm Park | 775 Meridian Road, Valparaiso

Brincka Cross Gardens | 427 Furness Road, Michigan City

Brookdale Park | 919 N 50 W, Chesterton

Dunn’s Bridge | 500 E (over the Kankakee River), Kouts



## CARTER'S CORNER



### Patrice Lawson

Patrice went to California in March to visit her son, sister, and brother. While she was there she went on a road trip with her sister. They drove to Death Valley National Park first. It is the hottest, driest, and lowest National Park. They went to Los Angeles to see some of the sites downtown. From there they went to Joshua Tree National Park and saw many unusual rocks formations and lots of cacti. Next, they drove to Redlands, CA. and finally back to Los Angeles.



Joshua Tree Sunset



Badwater Basic in Death Valley

Do you have something you'd like us to publish? A trip taken, a life event? Be sure to send to items for "Carter's Corner" to Peggy Carter at [peggy.carter@comcast.net](mailto:peggy.carter@comcast.net).

### Guy Ranstead

Guy's second hobby is scroll sawing. He has combined them to make jigsaw puzzles from his prints. See attachment. He glues the prints on 1/8 inch Baltic birch plywood. Matte paper works best. He can do this for any Club member. Give him a 8.5x11 (or any size under 12x12) print at the next meeting or Email him the image and he will give it back at the next meeting. Just \$5 for material. His labor is free. The puzzle shown is 45 pieces but for a younger person you may want larger size. Let him know. His email address is [joanguyran66@gmail.com](mailto:joanguyran66@gmail.com)



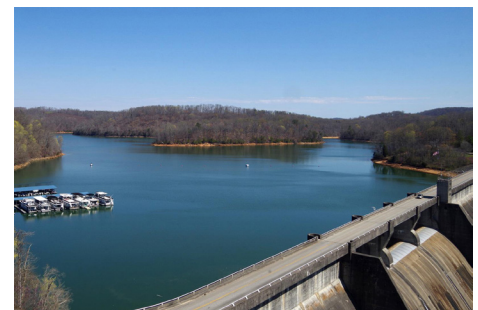
### Peggy Carter

Peggy went on a trip with her daughter and grandson to Tennessee during Spring Break. They visited her brother and family.

Also took in some sights such as Pidgeon Forge where the Titanic exhibit is. They visited the Lincoln Museum and Gatlinburg. Pictured is the Norris Dam.

### Rob O'Dea

Rob lives in Florida, but recently came to Northwest Indiana for a visit. He wanted to go on a hike to the Indiana Dunes. Steve Bensing took Rob to see the Beach House Blowout on Trail 9 at the Indiana Dunes State Park. While here, Rob renewed his membership in the Duneland Photography Club. He says that there is nothing like this club where he lives near Tampa, Florida.





# SCHOOLHOUSE SHOP

As a follow-up to the April meeting, Joel Alderson led club members on a photoshoot of Cool Subjects at the Schoolhouse Shop in Furnessville.

Also attending were Mike Alvarado, Steve Bensing, Dawn Duty, Paul

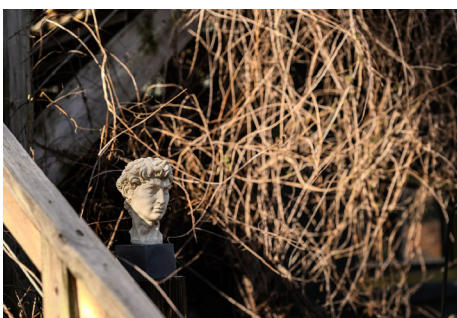
Ewing, Terry Fairchild, Matt Koslowski, Patrice Lawson, Henry Schultz, Teresa Sheppard, Greg Stephan, Stephanie Tanke, and Norman Turner.



Dawn Duty



Dawn Duty



Mike Alvarado-Johnson



Stephanie Tanke



Patrice Lawson



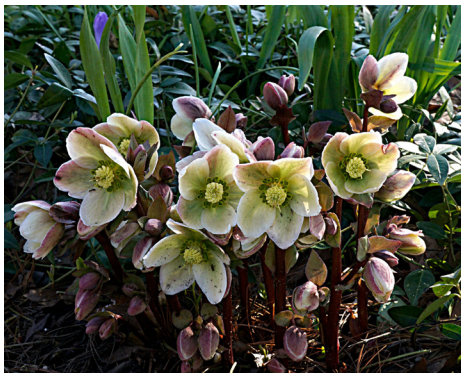
Patrice Lawson



Patrice Lawson







Paul Ewing



Paul Ewing



Paul Ewing



Paul Ewing



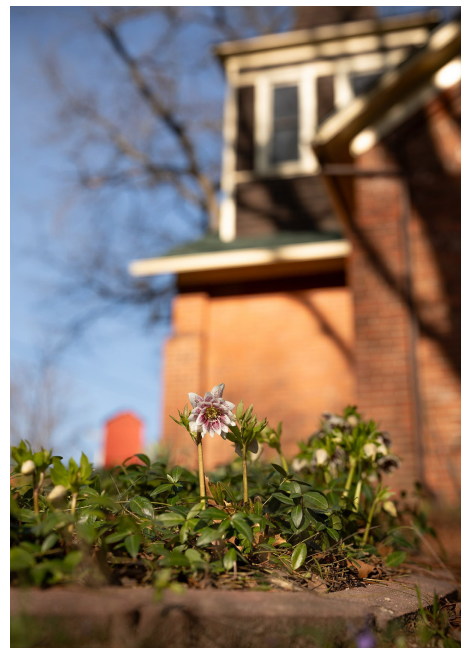
Mike Alvarado-Johnson



Terry Fairchild



Mike Alvarado-Johnson



Mike Alvarado-Johnson



Teresa Sheppard





Teresa Sheppard



Teresa Sheppard



Mike Alvarado-Johnson



Dawn Duty

## DECAY DEVILS IN GARY, INDIANA

The Duneland Photography Club had the opportunity to join the Decay Devils in a tour of some historic sites in Gary.

We started at the Union Station and ended at the Gary Methodist Church. The tour was led by Tyrell Anderson and several other members of the Decay Devils. It

was also filmed by Nick Deel of WTIU from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana for an upcoming TV program on Gary.

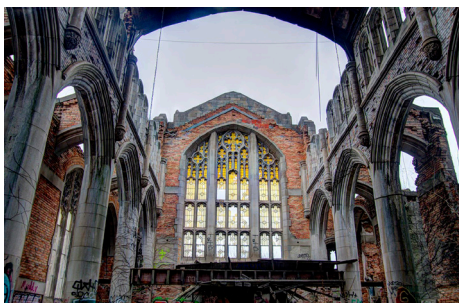
Several members of the photo club met at Union Station including: Deb and Drew Armstrong. Steve Bensing, Peggy Carter, Dawn Duty, Patrice Lawson, Greg Ott, Teresa

Sheppard, and Stephanie Tanke,

The group photo taken at Union Station also shows members of the Decay Devils and the TV reporter. Not pictured include Sharon Kerner, Georganna Edmonds, Barb Russ, and Crystal Hollenbeck who joined us at the Church.



Peggy Carter



Peggy Carter



Steve Bensing





Steve Bensing



Steve Bensing



Steve Bensing



Teresa Sheppard



Teresa Sheppard



Barb Russ



Patrice Lawson



Patrice Lawson



Stephanie Tanke



Dawn Duty



Dawn Duty



Teresa Sheppard



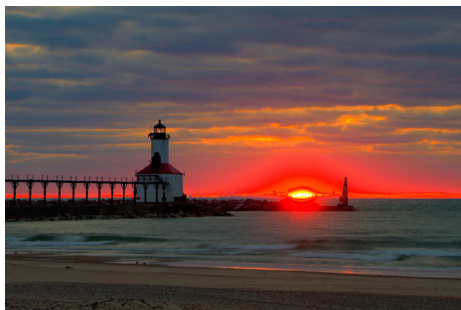
Barb Russ



# SUNSET OVER CHICAGO

On April 21st, six members of the Duneland Photography Club braved questionable weather to catch the sunset over the Chicago skyline from the Michigan City Lighthouse. The clouds broke to see the sun and a clear view of the skyline.

The following Duneland members participated: Steve Bensing, Paul Ewing, Terry Fairchild, Patrice Lawson, Teresa Sheppard, and Jerry Straw.



Steve Bensing



Terry Fairchild



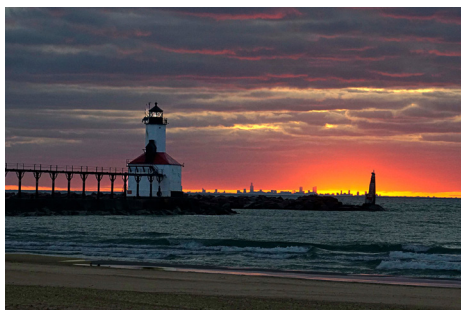
Jerry Straw



Steve Bensing



Teresa Sheppard



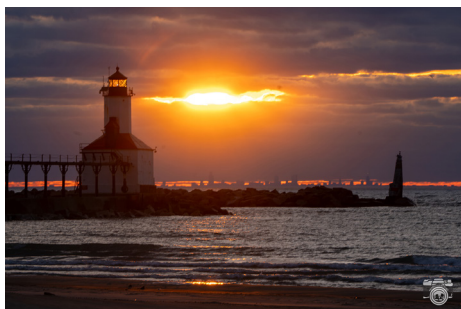
Paul Ewing



Teresa Sheppard



Jerry Straw



Teresa Sheppard



Steve Bensing / model: Jerry Straw



# ART BARN JURIED EXHIBITION

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The Art Barn is holding its 31st Annual Juried Exhibition now through June 5th.

On April 11th the Reception was held. Three members of the



Duneland Photography Club exhibited their art.

- Dawn Duty displayed her photo, "Stairway to Heaven"
- Dina Heijselaar showed her mixed media, "Below Sea Level"
- Steve Bensing had his "Lake of the Clouds Sunrise #2." He was excited to find out the following week that it sold!

Other members Matt Kowalski, Lorelei Brown, and Larry Brown, also attended the reception. Be sure to check out the show!



## ARTISTS' GUILD OF VALPARAISO

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Several members of the Duneland Photography Club participated in the April exhibit of the Artists' Guild of Valparaiso. They include Shelly Jones, Deb Armstrong, Lorelei Brown, Larry Brown, Steve

Bensing, and Dina Heijselaar (not pictured). Shelly and Steve both earned Honorable Mention awards for their art. Peggy Carter also attended and took some of the photos.

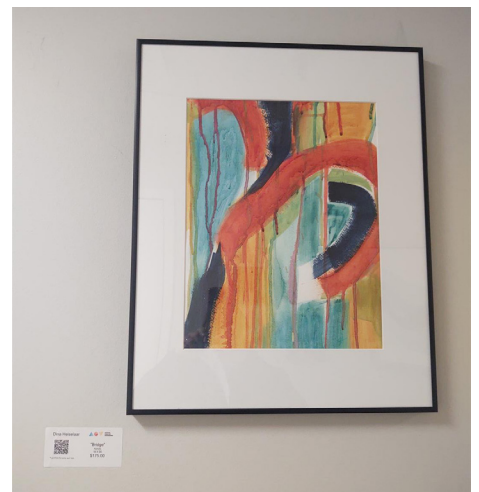
The exhibit continues through May 15th at 255 and 257 Indiana Avenue in Valparaiso. Check the website ([agofvalpo.com](http://agofvalpo.com)) for hours.



Shelly Jones



Lorelei Brown



Dina Heijselaar



# MEMBER'S PHOTOS

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Wendy Vander Kooi



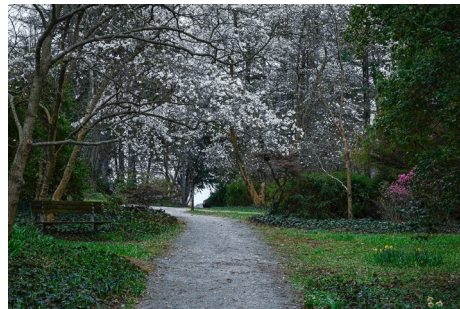
Paul Ewing



Vanessa Shaffer



Dave Lasayko



Teresa McGinley



Des Kashyap



Crystal Hollenbeck



Julius Titak



Sheila Hathhorn Stephenson



Dawn Duty



# HAPPENINGS

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## Ongoing Monthly

- Take photos at Porter County Parks for upcoming calendar. Submit (up to) three high resolution photos to **DunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com** with subject line of **PARKS CALENDAR**. Include the name of the park where each of the photos was taken.
- Submit items of personal or family nexs for **CARTER'S CORNER** to **DunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com** with the subject line of **CARTER'S CORNER**.
- Submit **MEMBER NEWS** of photography interest for the newsletter to **DunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com** with the subject line of **NEWSLETTER**.

## Tuesday, May 6 / 5-8 pm

- 5:00 pm | Mentoring
- 6-8 pm | Monthly Club Meeting
- Meeting presenter and topic | Wayne Pope; Smart Phone Photography | bring photos showing "Cool Subjects" on a thumb drive
- Sunset Hill Farm
- Horton Family Education Center
- 775 Meridian Road, Valparaiso

## Monday, May 12 / 5 pm

- Day after Mother's Day Wildflower Hike
- Meet at East lot and hike west
- Heron Rookery
- Indiana Dunes National Park
- East Lot 1336 600 E
- Michigan City

## Thursday, May 15 / 6-7 pm

- Drop Off Artwork
- agofvalpo.com
- Artists' Guild of Valparaiso
- 255 Indiana Avenue
- Valparaiso

## Saturday, May 17 / 7 pm

- Reception
- agofvalpo.com
- Artists' Guild of Valparaiso
- 255 Indiana Avenue
- Valparaiso

## Tuesday, June 3 / 5-8 pm

- 5:00 pm | Mentoring
- 6-8 pm | Monthly Club Meeting
- Meeting presenter and topic | Rafi Wilkinson, "An Insider's Tour of the National Park: Lesser Known Spots | bring photos showing "Smartphone Photos" on a thumb drive
- Sunset Hill Farm
- Horton Family Education Center
- 775 Meridian Road, Valparaiso

## Wednesday, June 4 / 7 pm

- Deadline to submit entry forms for "The Days are Longer Now" exhibit for the Promis You Art House
- Submit entries to DunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com

## Wednesday, June 11-Thursday, June 12 / 10 am-5 pm

- Drop off Art at Highland
- Promise You Art House
- 8830 Kennedy Avenue
- Highland

## Saturday, June 14 /11 am-4 pm

- Reception
- Coincides with the Highland Artwalk