

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

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 or find us on Facebook at facebook.com/dunelandphotoclub

JULY 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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MARK ZIMMERMAN

"I captured some nice photos of the Chellberg Farm Midsummer Festival on Saturday, June 22. Sponsored by the Indiana Dunes National Park, the event included tours of Chellberg Farm, raising of a maypole, informational booths and traditional Swedish music."



JULY MEETING

From Urban Exploration to Historical Preservation: A Journey Through the Lens

Calling all photographers, history buffs, and adventure seekers!

Join us for a captivating evening with Tyrell Anderson, co-founder of Decay Devils, as he takes us on a visual and storytelling journey from urban exploration to historical preservation.

Discover how a passion for photography led to uncovering hidden gems and abandoned spaces.

Learn how the Decay Devils transformed from thrill-seekers to dedicated advocates for preservation.

Explore incredible travels, stunning visuals, and the stories behind forgotten places.

Engage with Tyrell as he shares insights, challenges, and the impact of merging photography with activism.

Whether you're a photographer, an urban explorer, or simply someone who loves a great story, this is an event you won't want to miss!

Presentation Breakdown:

- Introduction – A brief welcome and overview of the journey ahead.
- Origins and Evolution | The story of how Decay Devils started and the path to where we are today.
- Visual Journey | A showcase of favorite locations and images, highlighting the transition from urban exploration to historical preservation.
- Looking Ahead | Insights into



future projects, goals, and the direction of the group.

- Community Voices | Reflections and comments from Decay Devils members and Roosevelt Volunteers on their experiences and impact.

Get ready for an engaging session filled with stunning visuals, powerful storytelling, and meaningful discussions on the intersection of photography, history, and preservation!

Website: decaydevils.org



Photos taken by Teresa Sheppard on a Spring 2025 walking tour with the Decay Devils

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Some years ago, I saw a dumpster containing stacks and stacks of photo albums. This was shocking to me. I wondered why. Recently, I read an article in the Times by Jerry Davich, "What to do with family photos nobody wants?" As photographers, we take a lot of photos for various reasons. We collect many photos. The question is, what do we do with them?

I have many photos, not only

ones I have taken, but family photos that go back over 100 years. Some include great-great grandparents. Some were taken by my grandfather and my dad. I even have a box full of negatives of images that my dad took during WWII. Of course, I have many photos that I have captured throughout my lifetime. They not only include digital images, but photo albums, prints in envelopes, negatives, slides, and even framed photos on the wall. How do I manage these things? How do I share them? What is the most valuable?

As a photographer and amateur historian, photos are valuable to me. They are like time machines. They may bring memories of places and people that are no longer here. They have captured moments in my life and in the lives of people around me. My brother Bill, who becomes impatient when I take photos, has thanked me for taking family photos over the years because of the memories they have preserved. He and I are in this photo.

I am the historian for Camp Jorn in Manitowish Waters, WI. Over

the last 20 years or so, I have worked on preserving photos of a camp with over 70 years of history. Many of these photos and stories to go with them have been preserved in two books I have worked on.

But the question still remains. What do we do with our photos. How do we organize and preserve them? How do we pass them on? How do we get people to care? These are all difficult questions we must consider.

At the Duneland Photography Club, we share our photos. We help each other display and organize them. We put our heart and soul into the images we capture. Ultimately, what we do with them is up to each of us.

Steve Bensing,
President



PAUL EWING



JUNE MEETING RECAP

The evening's speaker was Rafi Wilkinson. The topic was "An Insider's Tour of the Indiana Dunes National Park: Lesser Known Spots- Where and When."

Rafi shared facts and the history of the Indiana Dunes. We learned that the Dunes is the fifth most biodiverse National Park. We also learned about a few of the important people of the Dunes such as Dr. Henry Cowles, Dorothy Buell, and Paul Douglas.

Many beautiful photos were shown

to encourage and inspire us to get out and enjoy the National Park in all types of weather and seasons.

Some of the specific places he shared with us were Pinhook Bog, Mount Baldy, Central Beach, Heron Rookery, The Great Marsh, Dune Ridge Trail, Miller Woods, Tolleston Dune Trail, and Reynolds Creek

The show and tell theme was cell phone photography led by Paul Ewing.



PORTER COUNTY PARKS CALENDAR



Nancy Bellovary de Courcy | 1st Place
Sunset Hill Farm Park



Steve Bensing | 2nd Place
Sunset Hill Farm Park



Dina Heijver | 3rd Place
Brookdale Park

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

ARTISTS' GUILD OF VALPARAISO

On May 17th, a reception was held for the Artists' Guild of Valparaiso.

Several members of the Duneland Photography Club were in attendance:

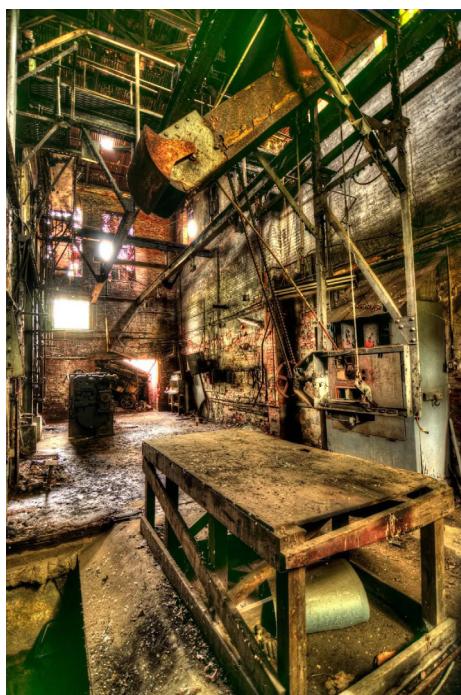
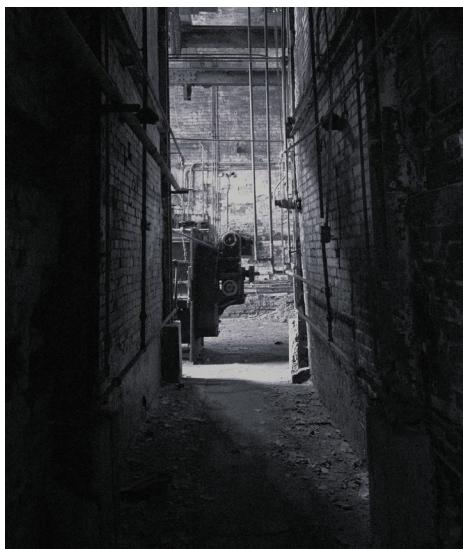
Larry and Loralei Brown, Steve Bensing, Dina Heijsehaar, Peggy Carter, and Carol Estes.

Carol received an Honorable Mention for her work. Steve Bensing's piece, "Wolf Rest" earned a first place ribbon. Loralei Brown also participated in the show

The group photo was taken by professional photographer, Trent Albert.



WENDY VANDER KOOI





CARTER'S CORNER

Steve Bensing

Steve and his wife, Betty, joined a bus tour in May to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Kentucky. Both were quite impressive. The Creation Museum had many informative displays and a planetarium with beautiful grounds. The Ark was built to biblical proportions: 450 feet long and 75 feet wide, with a lot of great exhibits inside. Here are a few pictures of both places, including our tour group.



Suzan Perry

Suzan enjoyed a week in Door County, Wisconsin at The Clearing overlooking Ellison Bay. She attended an Illustrating Nature Journal class. While the main focus was drawing and painting, Suzan snapped a few photos of the wildlife and beautiful settings too. First time ever to see a porcupine up close! It was huge. She didn't learn until a few days later that they don't fling their quills at you.



Mark Zimmerman

Mark and his wife, Gloria, really enjoyed their afternoon at Churchill Downs sponsored by Indiana State University's Alumni Association. Gloria's horse finished 1st in one of the races!



Peggy Carter

Peggy recently spent a couple of weeks in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with Steve and Betty Bensing. She enjoyed a boat trip to the sea caves at Devil's Island in the Apostle Islands where she could see them inside and out.

Another of her favorite things was to see Scott Falls up close. Kitchiti-kipli is the largest natural fresh water spring in Michigan, where she enjoyed seeing the clear water from a floating platform.

Peggy also photographed various wildlife, including a porcupine on a back road near Crisp Point Lighthouse, and black bears at Oswald's Bear Ranch, which is a wildlife rescue service.



KUDOS

Mark Zimmerman

Mark has been active with his art. Two recent things he has done

First, his watercolor is used on the tshirts for the VNA NWI Hospice Military Stand Down Events. This is a celebration of Veterans in the Northwest Indiana Community.

Secondly, his artwork is on display at Lifestyles Gifts, 122 East Lincolnway in Valparaiso.



PROMISE YOU ART HOUSE EXHIBIT

The Promise You Art House in Highland, Indiana is hosting the summer exhibit for the Duneland Photography Club titled, "The Days are Longer Now."

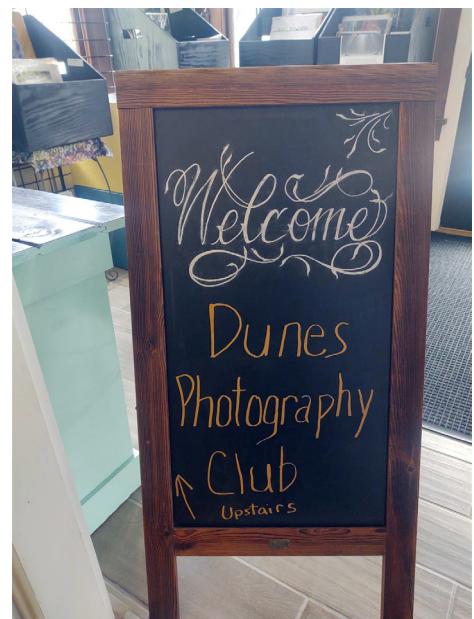
Twelve members are exhibiting, including Deb Armstrong, Steve Bensing, Peggy Carter, Carol Estes, Paul Ewing, Dina Heijseelaar, Patrice Lawson, Matthew Kowalski, Gretchen Maguire, Suzan Perry, Jim Rettker, and Sheila Stephenson.

This was Sheila's first exhibition. Carol also had a booth of her work outside.

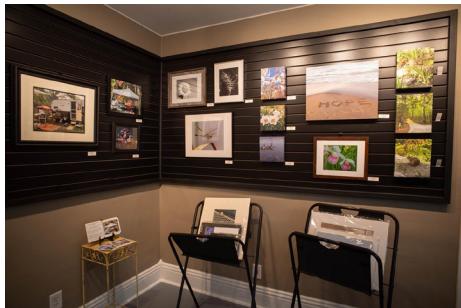
Attendees included: Deb, Steve, Peggy, Carol, Dina, Patrice, Matthew (and his wife), Suzan, Jim, Sheila (and her husband), Wayne Wodrich, Jerry and Marianne Straw, Sandra Teutemacher, and new member Mary Dahl (and her husband).

The show continues at the Promise You Art House, 8830 Kennedy Ave., Highland, IN 46322 through July 19th.

For hours, contact the venue at 219-595-0097.



Bill Bensing, Betty Bensing, and Steve Bensing



Wayne Wodrich, Carol Estes, and Steve Bensing



Carol Estes



Patrice Lawson, Steve Bensing, Sandra Teutemacher, and Peggy Carter



Mary Dahl (and husband)



Sheila Stephenson (and husband)



Matthew Kowalski



Dina Heijselar and Jim Rettker



Deb Armstrong



Matthew Kowalski (and wife)



Marianne and Jerry Straw

Promise You Art House
is located at
8830 Kennedy Avenue
Highland, Indiana

CHESTERON WOMEN'S CLUB ART SHOW

Several members of the Duneland Photography Club participated in the Chesterton Woman's Club 73rd Annual Art Show for the month of June 2025.

Members include: Dawn Duty

Carol Estes, , Dina Heijuelaar, and Marianne Straw (wife of Jerry Straw).

Photo credit: Dawn Duty (labeled) and Steve Bensing



Artwork: Dina Heijuelaar



Artwork: Dawn Duty



Artwork: Carol Estes



Dawn Duty



“The Chesterton Art Center is a vibrant hub of artistic and cultural activity in the Duneland Area. CAC widens access to arts, art education, and outreach to build a creative community that includes everyone.”

The Chesterton Art Center is located at

115 S. 4th Street
Chesterton, Indiana

(219) 926-4711

MEMBER'S PHOTOS



Bob Capen



Julius Titak



Harry de Courcy



Tom Mathewson



Terry Fairchild



Vanessa Shaffer



George Kassal



Terry Fairchild



Julius Titak



Harry Schultz



Dawn Duty



Vanessa Shaffer



Harry de Courcy



Barb Russ



Des Kashyap



Terry Fairchild



Paul Ewing



Chad Howell



Bill Shepard

HAPPENINGS

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 excursions 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**.

Present day -Saturday, July 19

- Duneland Photo Club Summer Exhibit
- Promise You Art House
- 8830 Kennedy Avenue
- Highland, Indiana

Tuesday, July 1 / 5-8pm

- 5:00 pm | Mentoring
- 6-8 pm | Monthly Club Meeting
- Meeting presenter & topic | Tyrell Anderson (Decay Devils) "From Urban Exploration to Historical Preservation: A Journey Through the Lens"
- Show and Tell | "Dunes Discoveries or Other Outdoor Adventures" bring photos on a thumb drive

Thursday, July 10, 6pm

- Photo hike led by Ron Seman
- Indiana Dunes National Park
- Meet in northernmost parking lot next to the beach

Friday, June 11

- Pre-registration for Porter County Fair Open Class
- Email

Saturday, July 13 / noon-6pm

- Drop off photos for Open Class at Porter County Fair

Thursday, July 17 / 4-7pm

- Drop off photos at Artists' Guild of Valparaiso (agofvalpo.com)

Saturday, July 19 / 7pm

- Reception at Artists' Guild of Valparaiso (agofvalpo.com)

Monday, July 21 / 6:30pm

- Porter County Fair Night Photoshoot
- Meet at entrance to Midway

July 23-25 / 10am-5pm

- Pick up artwork
- Promise You Art House
- 8830 Kennedy Avenue
- Highland, Indiana

Saturday, July 26 / 9:30am or

Sunday, July 27 / 9am-1pm

- Pick up artwork from Porter County Fair

Tuesday, August 5 / 5-8pm

- 5:00 pm | Mentoring
- 6-8 pm | Monthly Club Meeting
- Meeting presenter & topic | Scott Kinzie | Images from Favorite Locations; stories behind each; how they were processed
- Show and Tell | "Urban Photography" bring photos on a thumb drive