

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

NOVEMBER 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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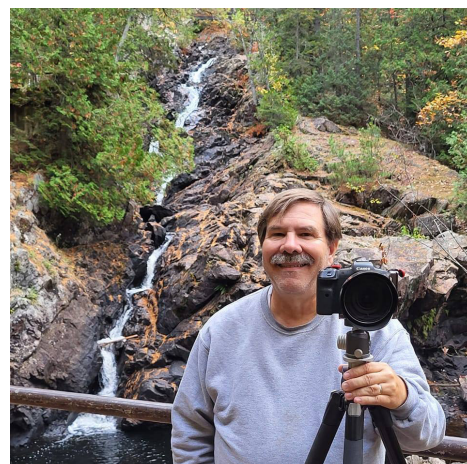
NOVEMBER MEETING

Scott Kinzie will be our special speaker for our November 4th meeting. His topic is "From Vision to Final Result." He will showcase images from his favorite locations and share the story behind each one. He'll explain why he took them, his vision for the final result, and how he processed them.

Scott previously led a Zoom meeting with our club and many of us have met him at the Chesterton Art Fair and Gardening Show at the Porter County Fairgrounds.

Scott is active in several art fairs in and around Indiana.

Visit Scott's webpage at scottkinzie.com.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



November is the month of Thanksgiving. It is a time to reflect and be thankful for what we have. Sometimes as photographers we are tempted to always be looking for more. We want the latest camera, that new lens, or that photography gadget. We can learn to be content with what we have. We can also want more in what we learn.

Each of us has some type of camera equipment, whether it is a cell phone, point & shoot camera, a DSLR camera or a mirrorless camera. Do you know all the capabilities of your camera? Do you take advantage of all your camera can do? Or

do you just use the auto settings and take just what the camera gives you?

I once met a photographer who intentionally uses old or cheap cameras to challenge himself to be creative. He took the oldest DSLR he had on photoshoots. I also have met people who use manual film cameras. Those cameras did not have the latest bells and whistles. In doing so, we learn to work around the limitations of the equipment, but can end up with some very creative images. On the other hand, I spoke with someone a few years ago that had a collection of very expensive cameras. But he did not know how to use them.

A few weeks ago, I spoke with a woman who said that taking pictures is easy, just push the button on the cell phone. I looked at her image and asked her how she could improve it. That is the beginning of becoming a real photographer. Will having a

new camera with more advanced features make you a better photographer? Or will mastering the equipment you have help you learn techniques that you weren't aware of?

To me, the camera is a tool to create an image. The most important part of making that image is the vision, imagination, and skill of the photographer. I believe I can create memorable art with a \$10 disposable camera. The key is to understand the capabilities and limitations of the tool I am using.

Be thankful for the opportunities you have. At the Duneland Photography Club, we strive to create the opportunities for all of us to grow as photographers. Don't be content with what you know today. Learn more each day and challenge yourself to try something new!

Steve Bensing,
President



OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

Program Speaker for the meeting was Trent Albert speaking on “Doing Good with Your Photography”.

Trent’s presentation was very informative and inspiring. He told us about some of the volunteer work he has done and continues to be a part of such as “Rebuilding Together” and the mission work in Sierra Leone called “Operation Classroom”. In Sierra Leone they have been working to provide what

is needed to educate the people such as classrooms, power and water. We learned that it only takes \$250 a year to educate one student. He showed some wonderful videos and photos of projects he has been a part of. He shared with us that he uses a program called Animoto to put the videos together.

Show and Tell Members sharing photos on the theme “Water” were Terry Fairchild, Susan Bunce, Paul

Ewing, Jim Rettker, Greg Stephan, Jack Stefan. Peggy Carter, and Steve Bensing.



PORTER COUNTY PARKS CALENDAR



Jamie Spurr | 1st Place
Sunset Hill Farm Park



Steve Bensing | 2nd Place
Sunset Hill Farm Park



Pete Hokanson | 3rd Place
Sunset Hill Farm 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

TERESA SHEPPARD | YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



KUDOS

Three members of the Duneland Photography Club, Carol Estes, George Kassal, and Steve Bensing, had their work exhibited in the South Shore Arts 82nd Annual Salon Show in Munster, Indiana.

This is a very selective show. Out of

over 550 works submitted, only 115 pieces by 92 artists were chosen to be exhibite.

On October 19th, a pubic reception was held to honor the artists

Carol's work was titled, "Nature's

Perfection;" George's piece on display was "The Path of Light and Shadow;" and Steve had "Fair French Fries." All three pieces were sold on that day.

Congratulations!

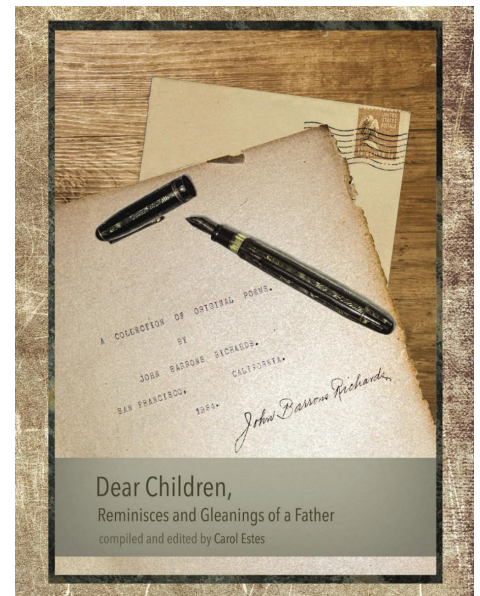


Carol Estes

Carol was overwhelmed to learn that her book of her great-grandfather's works received an Honorable Mention and 2025 Bookfest

Award, in the genre of Non-fiction/Memoirs/Portraits. It's 506 pages, and filled with her photography. She designed the cover as well

Carol is excited!



CHELLBERG FARM PHOTOSHOOT

Near the end of October, the Duneland Photography Club held a Fall Photoshoot at the Chellberg Farm of the Indiana Dunes National Park.

On a beautiful autumn day, Dan

Ruggaber, Sandra Teutemacher, and Steve Bensing participated.

It was a great time for Sandra to try out her new camera.

Photo credit: Steve Bensing



TRENT ALBERT PHOTOSHOOT

As a follow up to his presentation at the October meeting, Trent Albert showed Duneland Photography Club members his property as a photoshoot.

He bought property adjacent to his old property, and uses the house as

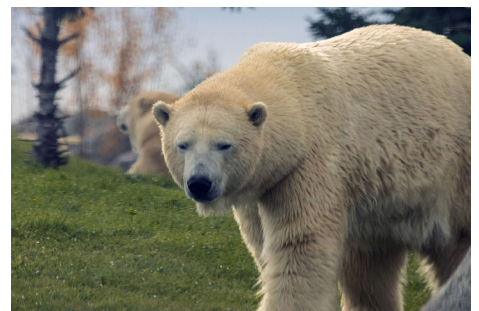
a photography studio. Trent also enjoys spending time in the woods, and has built trails with many whimsical and artistic creations. He also has garden areas, a chicken coop, and a pond. A highlight was seeing the stage area he built from recycled materials. We took a group

photo there.

Members participating include: Steve Bensing, Steven, Dyke, Robert and Christina Evans, Patrice Lawson, Suzan Perry, Norm Turner, and Jeff Yelton. Photo credit: Steven Bensing



NANCY AND HARRY DE COURCY | WINNIPEG ZOO



ARTISTS' GUILD OF VALPARAISO

On September 20th the Artist Guild of Valparaiso had it's monthly reception.

Duneland Photography Club members Marcia Petrick (new member), Lorelei and Larry Brown, Carol Estes, and Steve Bensing, were in attendance.

Carol won Best of Show for her work, "Heartbeat of America," and Honorable Mention for "Fire

and Ice." Steve also received an Honorable Mention for his "Highline View." Lorelei displayed two pieces: "Strahl Lake, Trail #6, Nashville, Indiana" and "Beautiful Lake George, New Yor."

Dina Heijesaar was not present, but two of her works were on display, "Delta (Netherlands Series)" and "What Lies Beneath."



Steve Bensing | Highline View



Caro Estes | Heartbeat of America



Caro Estes | Fire and Ice



Lorelei Brown | Strahl Lake Trail #6



Dina Heijesaar | What Lies Beneath



Lorelei Brown | Beautiful Lake



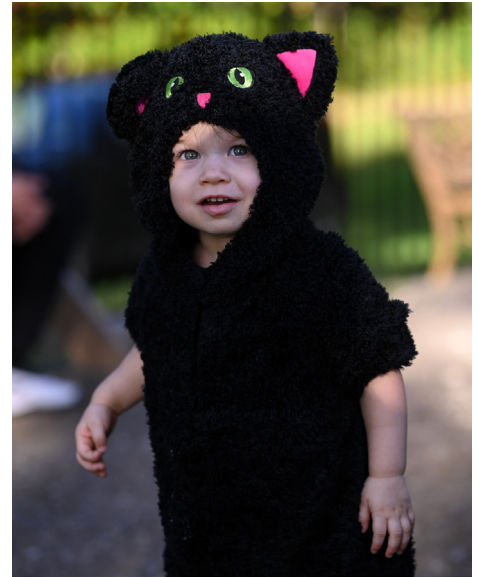
Dina Heijesaar | Delta (Netherlands Series)



TRUNK OR TREAT AT SUNSET HILL!

Trunk or Treat was once again celebrated at Sunset Hill Farm County Park on October 11 from 3-6 pm. The event is open to the public with local vendors handing out candy and giveaways.

Photo credit: Patrice Lawson





CARTER'S CORNER

Teresa Sheppard

Teresa (and her dog, Sadie) made their annual visit to Wyoming for Pug Roundup in Lander, Wyoming. Prior to the weekend events, the pair (once again) visited their favorite place, Yellowstone National Park.

As always, Teresa was happy to encounter the wildlife in the Park. No visit would be complete without bear, elk, moose, wolf, and (of course) bison sightings.



Steve Bensing

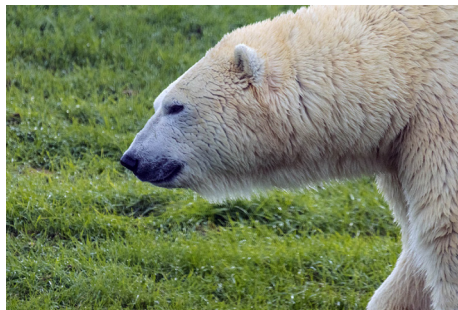
recently visited Shipshewanna, Indiana. He enjoyed seeing the Amish horse drawn buggies.



Nancy and Harry deCourcy

October 12 boarded a Via Rail train at Winnipeg, Manitoba (Canada) Union Station for a two day trip to Churchill, Manitoba on Hudson Bay.

What they didn't know was that the rain they were seeing was developing into a full blown winter storm. The views from the train were gorgeous but the next day Via Rail declared the track to Churchill impassable. The train was terminated at a grain elevator yard in Saskatchewan and they and the crew were bussed back to Winnipeg. The next day they decided that, come Hell or High Water, they were going to photograph polar bears. They spent the day at the Winnipeg Zoo photographing them there before leaving on the 15th for home.



Peggy Carter

Peggy went to the Covered Bridge Festival in Parke County, Indiana. She saw 24 of the 31 covered bridges in Parke County.

Terry Fairchild

Terry took a trip to Michigan, Sleeping Bear Dunes area for five days. The leaves had not completely turned yet. Plenty of photo opportunities were still to be found. The Tunnel of trees is about an 1- 3/4 hour north. There are limited places to stop on this narrow road. You will pass through Petoskey and Charlevoix, which are also worthy of exploration. The National Park Service has bought several of the historic farms in the area, and Terry found many by back road driving. Much more to explore on another trip.



MEMBER'S PHOTOS



Paul Ewing



Sheila Hathorn Stephenson



Crystal Hollenbeck



Vanessa Shaffer



Des Kashyap



Rob Odea



Terry Fairchild



Julius Titak



Scott Miller



Stephanie Tanke

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**.

Tuesday, November 4 / 5-8pm

- 5:00 pm | Mentoring
- 6-8 pm | Monthly Club Meeting
- Meeting presenter & topic | Scott Kinzie | From Vision to the Final Result
- Show and Tell | "Fall Favorites" bring photos on a thumb drive

Thursday, November 13 / 4-7pm

- Artists' Guild of Valparaiso Drop-offs
- agofvalpo.com

Saturday, November 15 / 7pm

- Artists' Guild of Valparaiso Reception
- agofvalpo.com

Sunday, November 16 / 3pm

- Sandhill Cranes
- Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area
- tinyurl.com/mtsx5pfr

Sunday, November 23 / 3:30am

- CPKC Holiday Train
- Chesterton, Indiana
- tiurl.com/47z9k5sx

Saturday, November 29 / 5pm

- Twilight Parade
- Hometown Holiday Celebration
- Chesterton, Indiana

Tuesday, December 2 / 5:30-8pm

- Election of Officers
- Program | Christmas Party
- Show and Tell | Photos of the year will pay on the screen

Friday, December 12

- Marketing photos due for CAC Exhibition
- Email to dunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com

Saturday, December 13

- Santa Photo Shoot
- Sunset Hill

December / TBD

- Holly Days
- Valparaiso, Indiana