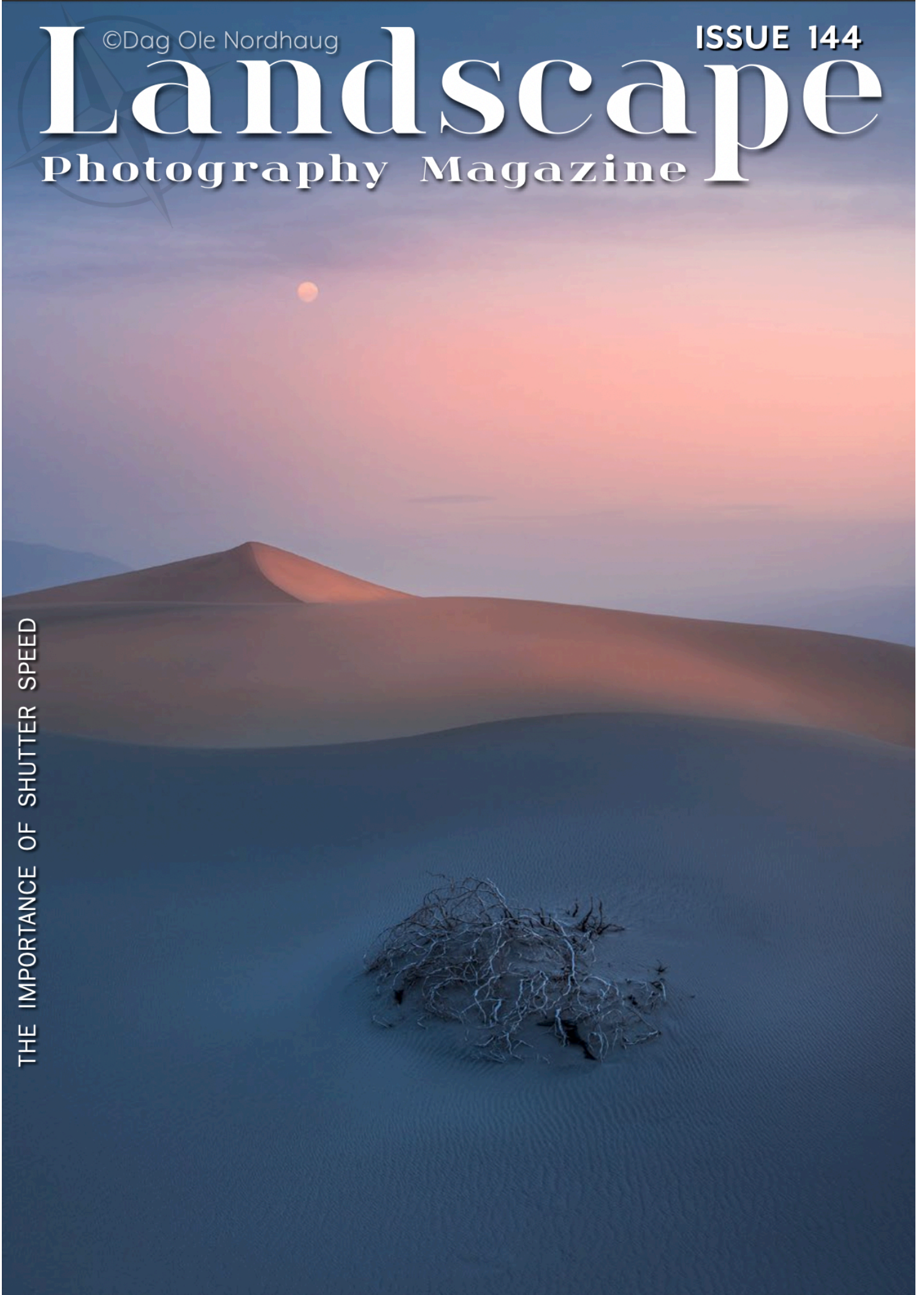# Landscape
Photography Magazine

THE IMPORTANCE OF SHUTTER SPEED

One of my favorite places to walk any time of the year is the Fort Sheridan Lake County Forest Preserve. The forest preserve is a 250-acre space that combines a savanna, ravines and a 70-foot bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. Fort Sheridan is one of my favorite places to walk and photograph.

During the summer, I noticed an oak tree along a south trail of the preserve with an unusual canopy. Closer canopy inspection revealed that part of this oak tree's top had been sheared off during a storm or perhaps struck by lightning. Every time I walked by that tree, I kept thinking about creating an image of that tree with the unusual canopy.

Summer became fall, and I watched as the leaves turned from green to gold. The colors were great, but something was missing from the image I imagined in my mind. I needed some clouds. I kept watching and waiting, hoping for the best sky before the leaves were gone. Finally, with November on its way, I thought I might be unable to create the image I saw in my mind's eye.

With three days left in October, during a sunny afternoon, some clouds rolled in ahead of a late fall rain storm, and I knew this might be my one opportunity to create the image I had in mind.

I jumped in the car and drove 15 minutes north to the forest preserve. Luckily it was less than a 10-minute walk from the car to the tree. The sky was changing quickly. I set up my camera and tripod and worked on various composition ideas. Just after I took this picture, the clouds moved in, covering the sun. I waited another 30

Paul Lucas, USA | Fort Sheridan Lake CFP, Lake Forest, Illinois, USA • Nikon D810, Nikon 24-70mm f/2.8, f/16, 1/60sec, ISO 100

minutes to see if there would be another break in the clouds, but the skies didn't change.

Fortunately, I was able to capture this oak tree with its two small companions, good lighting, and a great sky.

When I look at this image, I am reminded of Henri Cartier-Bresson's idea of the 'decisive moment' and the one moment you get to create a unique image.