

# **Lake Michigan Low Tide Exhibit Guide**

**Paul Lucas Photographer**

**May 4th through June 27th, 2019**

**Heller Nature Center  
Highland Park, IL**



## **Lake Michigan Low Tide**

The Great Lakes shared by Canada and the United States are large and vast, often even referred to as inland seas. With rolling waves, broiling winds and sky-scraper depths, the Great Lakes share many traits with the oceans and seas of the world. However, the moon governs the tides of the seas, whereas the Great Lakes do not share that natural phenomena with the seas.

Instead, the Great Lakes “tides” are more and more being influenced by human activity. Between 2012 and 2013, Lake Michigan set an all-time record low level since Great Lakes level record keeping started in 1914, and the years between 1999 and 2013 set a new record for consecutive years with below average levels. By 2012, Lake Michigan’s level had dropped nearly 3 feet, losing 17 inches alone in January of 2012, with the level bottoming in January 2013.

Due to excessively wet weather in the Midwest over the last few years since 2013, the level in Lake Michigan rebounded and is now predicted to be within 8 inches of its record level set in 1986. The current high “tide” is wreaking havoc on Lake Michigan lakeshores, eroding beaches and causing vast property damage. Human activity is influencing Lake Michigan’s “tides” to the extremes.

These Lake Michigan photographs were taken at Rosewood Beach in Highland Park, Illinois between September and December 2012 and June 2013 during the low “tide.” The images were crafted to let you experience a small slice of Lake Michigan during the low tide of 2012-2013 and the accompanying hidden world that lay close to shore. Through these images, you’ll witness both the steadfastness of Lake Michigan and its ever-changing moods that transform the Lake into living art. The images are arranged in chronological order and untitled so as to let you imagine what the image might say to you.

I hope these photographs inspire an awareness of Lake Michigan’s beauty and a call to action to protect the Great Lakes and our shared environment.

This exhibit is dedicated to Will Clay for his teaching, mentoring and artistic inspiration.

I also want to thank my family, especially my wife, Carla Arnell, for her patience and support of my solitary endeavors in photography.

## Paul Lucas Biography

Paul Lucas is a Midwestern-born landscape photographer who lived land-locked on the Western edge of Illinois overlooking the vast prairie of Iowa during his formative years. Moving to Evanston in 1992, he was stunned by the enormity of Lake Michigan. Paul developed a deep appreciation of the Lake after taking up photography in 2012.

Inspired by an old *Life* magazine article about Ansel Adam's experience in creating *Moonrise Over Hernandez*, Paul heard the siren call of fine art photography. He was fortunate to find an inspiring teacher and mentor at the Morton Arboretum and spent the next year studying and honing his craft with the renowned fine art landscape photographer Will Clay.

Paul has continued to hone his craft and artistic vision through on-going work and attending workshops with Alan Rokach and Doug Beasley. Paul's work has been displayed at the Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Will Clay also encouraged Paul to consider teaching photography. Paul started his teaching career three and half years ago and has been most recently teaching photography at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Paul's work focuses on nature and landscape areas "close to home" in DuPage and Lake Counties, showing that great art can be created anywhere, especially given the natural treasures to be found throughout the Cook, DuPage, and Lake County Forest Preserves and the ever-patient Lake Michigan shoreline. He hopes he inspires others to express themselves creatively while becoming more attuned to the environment.

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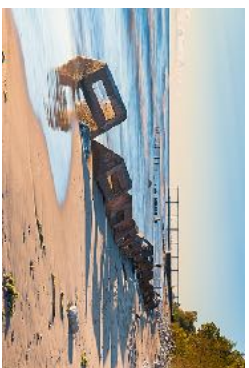
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September 12th, 2012



September 23rd, 2012



September 23rd, 2012



October 28th, 2012



October 28th, 2012



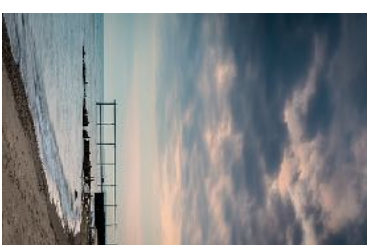
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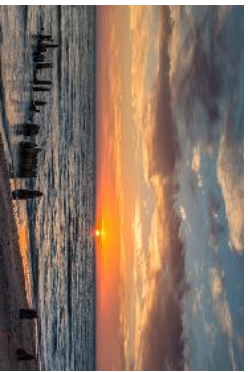
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November 4th, 2012



November 10th, 2012



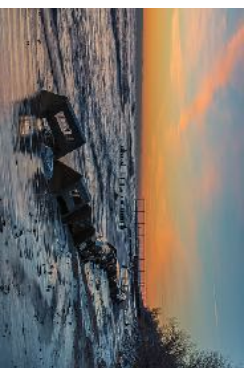
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November 25th, 2012



December 1st, 2012



December 22nd, 2012



December 22nd, 2012



June 2nd, 2013



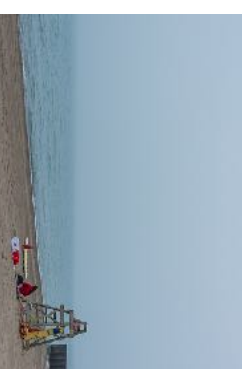
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June 2nd, 2013



June 10th, 2013



June 10th, 2013