

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

Information Contacts:

Ericka McCauley
713.859.5751
ericka@clevermac.com

Nathan Nietering
269.857.5751
director@sdhistoricalsociety.org

John Peters
269.857.2967
jppubrel@gmail.com

EMMY®-NOMINATED INDIANA DUNES DOCUMENTARY
HIGHLIGHTS S/D HISTORY CENTER'S APR. 20 PROGRAM

MAR 10, 2017 --A screening of "*Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability*" -- the story of conserving the Indiana Dunes -- will highlight Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next free, public monthly program on Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver Street in Saugatuck.

This Emmy®-nominated documentary explores how the Indiana Dunes region, through its influential environmental battles, offers a blueprint towards a more sustainable future. Since its August 2016 nationwide debut, #ShiftingSandsMovie has aired across 241 public television stations. The film was nominated for a Chicago/Midwest Regional Emmy® Award by the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Proceeds from the film benefit Lakeshore Public Television (WYIN) and the Dunes Learning Center. For more information about the film, visit shiftingsandsmovie.com

"The Dunes story is relatable to many pockets of the country, especially ours," said Nathan Nietering, executive director of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center. "This film captures a narrative that weaves the importance of ecology, the environment, and consensus-building into one story."

In 60 minutes, the film chronicles the journey of a movement for the United States to have its first National Park in an urban setting; a movement which eventually led to game-changing environmental policies with worldwide impact. Today, the advocacy from that movement has transformed into a new model of cooperation, where industrialists and environmentalists -- once bitter adversaries -- work together to steer its community toward a more sustainable future.

The documentary flows from the ideas of Lee Botts, a prominent American environmentalist known primarily for her work related to conservation and restoration of the Great Lakes. It comes a century after a National Park was first proposed to safeguard the Indiana Dunes' spectacular landscape of towering dunes, green woodlands, rich wetlands and unsurpassed biological diversity -- just one-hour from Chicago. Currently, a congressional bill is proposed to retitle the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to Indiana Dunes National Park. If passed, the bill would create Indiana's first National Park.

After the screening, members of the film's production team will lead a discussion with the audience. Representing the team are Lee Botts, executive producer; Patricia Wisniewski, producer and director; Tom Desch, producer, editor and writer; and Rana Segal, producer and director of photography. "We're excited that communities like Saugatuck-Douglas see 'Shifting Sands' as an opportunity to engage their stakeholders in conversations about sustainability," Wisniewski noted.

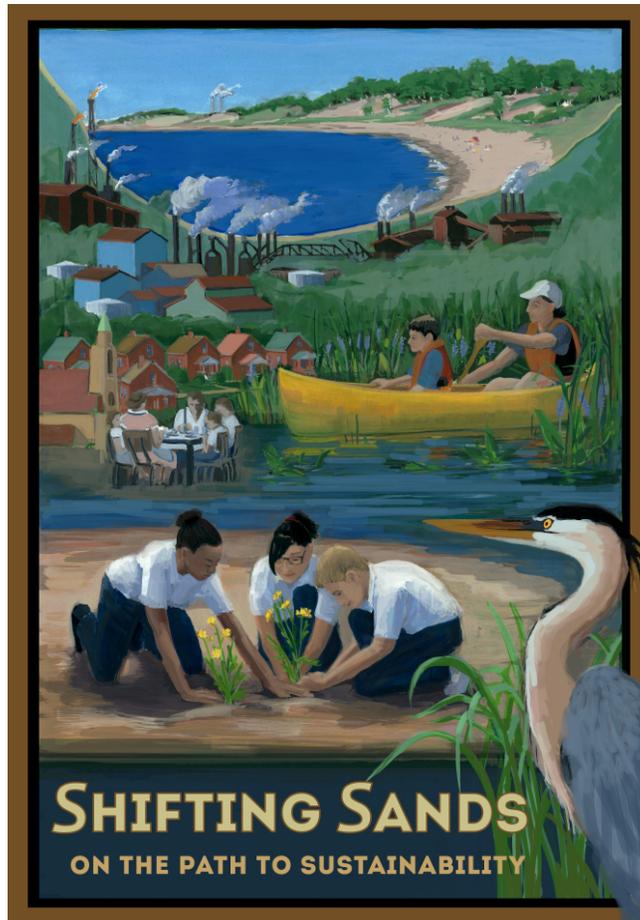
For more information about the screening, visit <http://sc4a.org/Happenings/Real-to-Reel-Shifting-Sands.aspx>.

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's free monthly program series presents entertaining and informative insights into local history and community life. This month's program is jointly sponsored by

SDHC members Kathleen and James Cook, Cottage Home, Saugatuck Dunes State Park Hikers, and Saugatuck Center for the Arts.

The History Center (SDHC), a volunteer-based 501(c)3 organization, preserves the greater Saugatuck-Douglas community's local history, and inspires learning to inform and improve the community. SDHC also connects residents and tourists with the area's unique cultural heritage through planned activities and volunteer opportunities. For more information about SDHC, its award-winning Pump House History Museum and Old School House, visit MySDHistory.org.

###



This beautiful artwork was created by Barbara Spies Labus, depicting the close-knit nature of the Indiana Dunes environment.