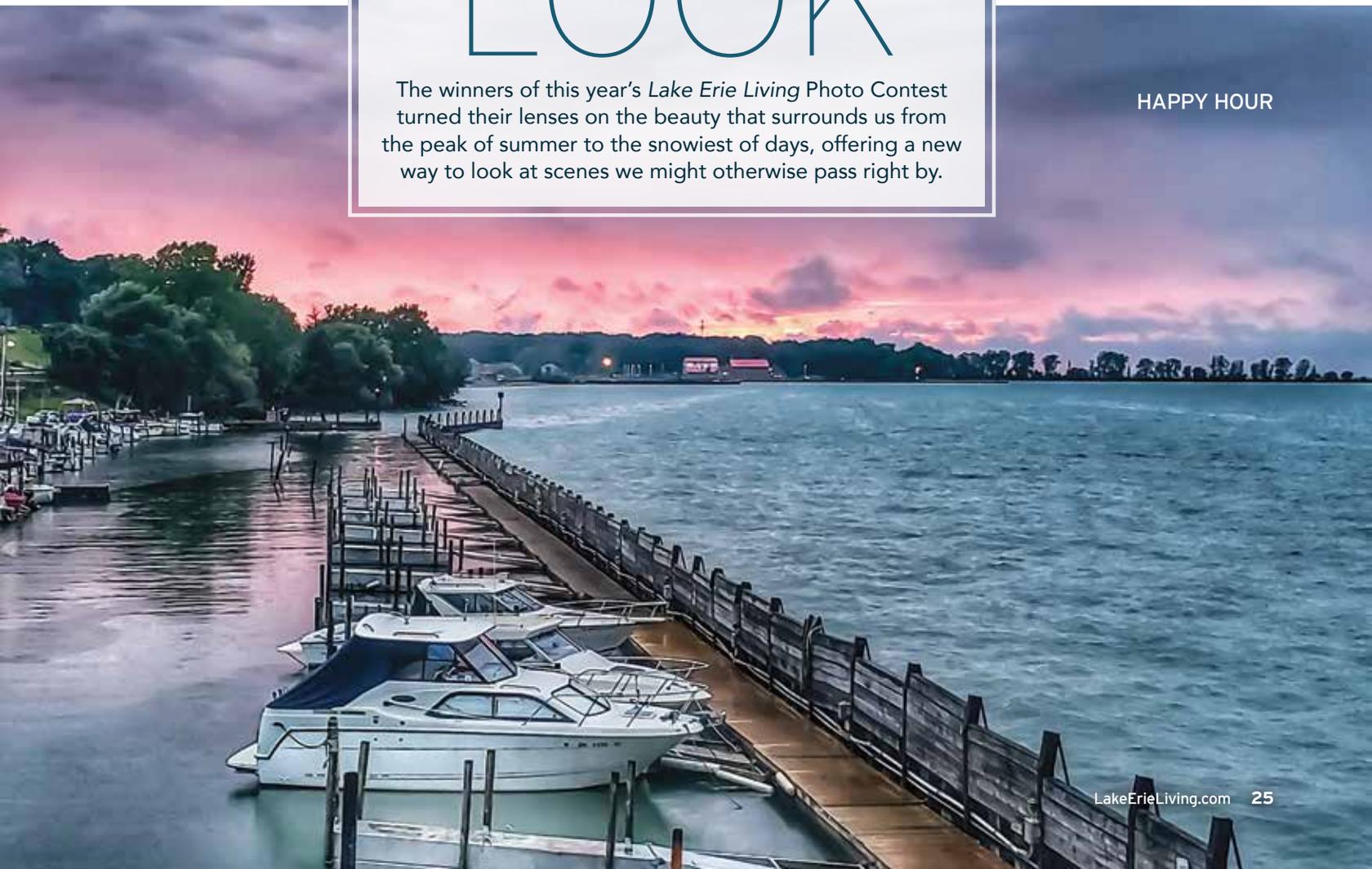


CLOSER LOOK

The winners of this year's *Lake Erie Living* Photo Contest turned their lenses on the beauty that surrounds us from the peak of summer to the snowiest of days, offering a new way to look at scenes we might otherwise pass right by.

HAPPY HOUR





SHOW TIME

By Heather Koglin, Avon Lake, Ohio

Heather Koglin was digging in the sand for beach glass at Huntington Reservation in Bay Village, Ohio, when she happened to look up. "I liked what I saw," she says. "The only thing that went into it was the timing of the sky, the people, the ducks and the peaceful, almost tropical vibe." Although she has a "real" camera, she only had her iPhone 8 with her, so she used that to take about 10 photos, including this winner.

BACKYARD WONDER

By Ric Smith, Painesville, Ohio

Every year, Ric Smith and his children plant milkweed and other native species designed to attract butterflies. Last August, they reaped the rewards of those efforts and spent the afternoon observing and photographing the magic of these creatures. "I love the simple beauty of this photo," he says, noting that he shot it with his Google Pixel 3. "It shows how even the most beautiful of creatures come from humble beginnings, but those beginnings are also beautiful in their own unique ways."

HAPPY HOUR

By Aprell Burkey, Painesville, Ohio

Aprell Burkey has a great job as the manager of the Sunset Harbor Bar and Grille in Fairport Harbor, Ohio — and an even better boss who doesn't mind if she snaps a few photos while on the job, including this photo taken with her Canon Rebel T6 last summer. "It's the perfect place in the summer for sunset photos," she says. "I love the colors of the sunset — absolutely beautiful."

A PASSION FOR PRESQUE ISLE

By Carrie Huggler, Erie, Pennsylvania

In a Lake Erie Living first, Carrie Huggler wowed us with two winning photos, both of which were taken at Erie's Presque Isle State Park with her Canon T6s. It was the first time, she says, that she saw a snowy owl and she was "smiling for a week" after capturing this photo. The other shot is of the park's Horseshoe Pond, which is home to a couple of dozen houseboats. Huggler heads to Presque Isle at least every other weekend. "I love to go there to practice my photography of sunrise/sunsets on the lake, wildlife, boats, etc., and just enjoy some nature," she says. "Sometimes I will dip my toes in the lake. Recently I have taken up kayaking, which is a great way to sneak up on wildlife with my camera."