

September 2018

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Cherryland Electric Cooperative



Nuclear Goes Small

Northport Energy  
Advocates For  
A Clean County

Black Star Farms  
Celebrates  
20th Anniversary

## BRINGING SPIRITS HOME

Iron Fish Distillery  
Embraces Its Roots



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## Guest Column

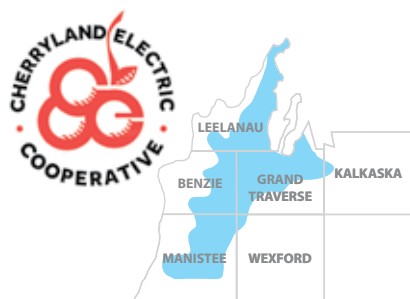
*Country Lines*  
invites members to  
submit stories.

### Guidelines

1. Approximately 350 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Submit your guest column at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) under the MI Co-op Community tab

## 2018 International Project Postponed

The Bolivia electrification project featured in previous issues of *Michigan Country Lines* magazine has encountered an unexpected setback. Due to unforeseen in-country circumstances, the project will not be completed this year as planned. Michigan's electric co-ops are evaluating other potential international outreach opportunities.



## CO-OP NEWS

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### Cherryland Cares Awards \$4,200 To Two Nonprofits

At their second quarter board meeting, the Cherryland Cares board awarded grants to Michael's Place and Remain in Touch. These grants will go to funding technology for a grief support center and purchasing books for a literacy program helping incarcerated parents stay connected with their children.

Cherryland Cares awarded \$4,200 in grants to these area nonprofit agencies. In 2018, Cherryland Cares has awarded \$25,100 in grants to area non-profit organizations.

The Cherryland Cares board is comprised of five volunteer Cherryland members. The funds distributed by Cherryland Cares are a result of members electing to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar. Members can contribute to the Cherryland Cares fund by calling 231-486-9200, signing up through SmartHub, or emailing us at [cec@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:cec@cherrylandelectric.coop).

If you are an area nonprofit agency seeking financial help, third quarter grant applications are due Friday, Sept. 7. For more information, please call Shannon Mattson at 231-486-9234 or email at [smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop).

### Cherryland Assists Greilick Outdoor Center For Day Of Caring

Cherryland will be assisting the Greilick Outdoor Center as part of United Way's Day of Caring 2018. The one-day event matches local businesses with local nonprofit agencies and schools to complete meaningful projects that fulfill agency and community needs. This year's Day of Caring takes place on Thursday, Sept. 13.

### Members May Give Input At Monthly Board Meeting

The board of directors at Cherryland is offering an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on Monday, Sept. 17, at 9 a.m. at the cooperative office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to five minutes. Attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.



## SUBMIT A NOMINATION TODAY!

Michigan Country Lines is on the hunt for entrepreneurial movers and shakers to showcase in our March 2019 magazine. We know co-op members are awesome and there is no shortage of pioneers, innovators and leaders in our service territory. Featured entrepreneurial endeavors can be small start-ups, large operations or anything in between.

If you know a friend, neighbor or coworker we should consider, nominate them  
by December 31 at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com).

Self-nominations are accepted.



## Can Small Be Big?

Tony Anderson, General Manager

The headlines of the past few years continue: “Coal Plants Shutting Down,” “Natural Gas Generation Increasing,” “Zoning Shuts Out Wind.” It leads one to ask, “What is going on with nuclear?” (Yes, there is a very subtle shift in this opening. I added wind to the “Big Three.” So, for me, it is time to move into the era of the “Big Four”—coal, gas, nuclear and wind.)

The bad stories have large nuclear projects going under or moving forward astronomically over budget have obviously dominated the news of the past year or two. What has been lost in the negative news cycle is the ongoing positive progress of small scale nuclear technology.

Approval of the first small modular reactor (SMR) is maybe two years away. A recent U.S. Department of Energy study has put out recommendations that just might move this development along. Notable among the recommendations is making SMRs eligible for an existing federal nuclear loan program, allowing federal agencies to enter into power purchase agreements of up to 30 years with SMRs, adding nuclear power to federal definitions of “clean power” and encouraging states to support the technology by giving the reactors credit for zero-carbon energy produced.

SMRs are a type of nuclear fission reactor that are smaller than conventional reactors. They can be manufactured at a plant, are about the size of a train car, and are transported easily after construction. The small size allows for less on-site construction, increased containment efficiency and heightened nuclear materials security. Industry opinions vary, but generally any reactor producing less than 500 Megawatts (MW) is considered small (80 MW would operate the entire Cherryland system).

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has not yet approved an SMR design. However, NuScale Power, LLC submitted the first certification application early last year. An NRC staff report on acceptance is expected in September 2020.

SMR units are forecasted to cost much less than a full-size commercial nuclear plant constructed from the ground up. The industry is particularly excited about the possibilities of the scalable technology. SMRs can be linked together to size a station as needed and as load in the area or region grows.

*“What has been lost in the negative news cycle is the ongoing positive progress of small scale nuclear technology.”*

Safety is another big selling point of SMR technology. Each SMR uses less uranium fuel than a typical reactor. They also circulate cooling water through passive

natural convection rather than pumps (less moving parts, less problem areas).

If NuScale Power gets approval in 2020, they have a contract with Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems to construct a 12 module/reactor, 570 MW plant on land owned by Idaho National Laboratory. The company is targeting a wholesale power cost of 6.5 cents per kwh. The plant could be up and running by 2026.

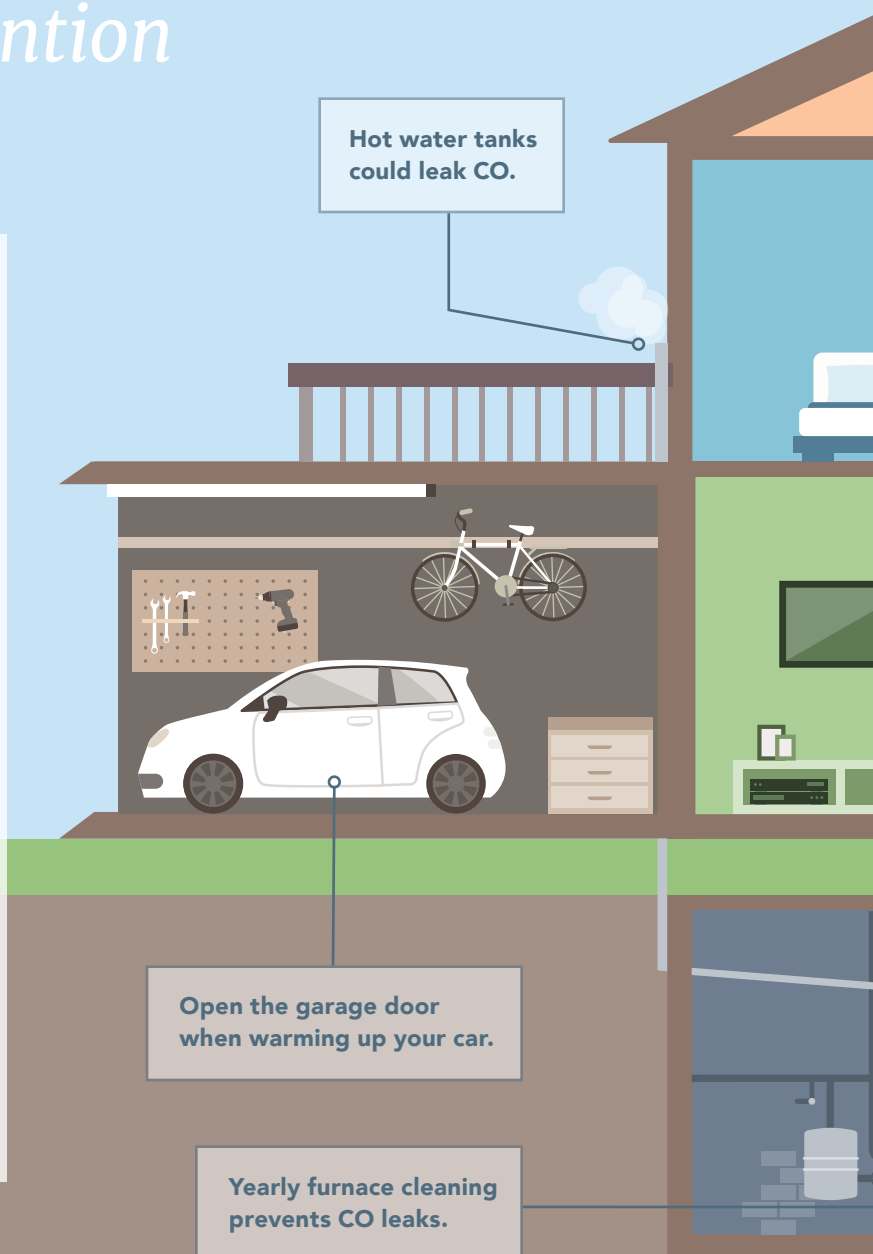
The enormous scope and scale of traditional nuclear energy has been its Achilles heel since the very beginning of the technology. The industry built behemoth plants in anticipation of growing loads that often didn’t materialize, leaving ratepayers with a difficult mortgage to pay off. Using Henry Ford’s simple manufacturing processes, we might soon be able to build units on a small scale that can be added to as growth actually occurs whenever it occurs. Small could really be huge in our energy future.

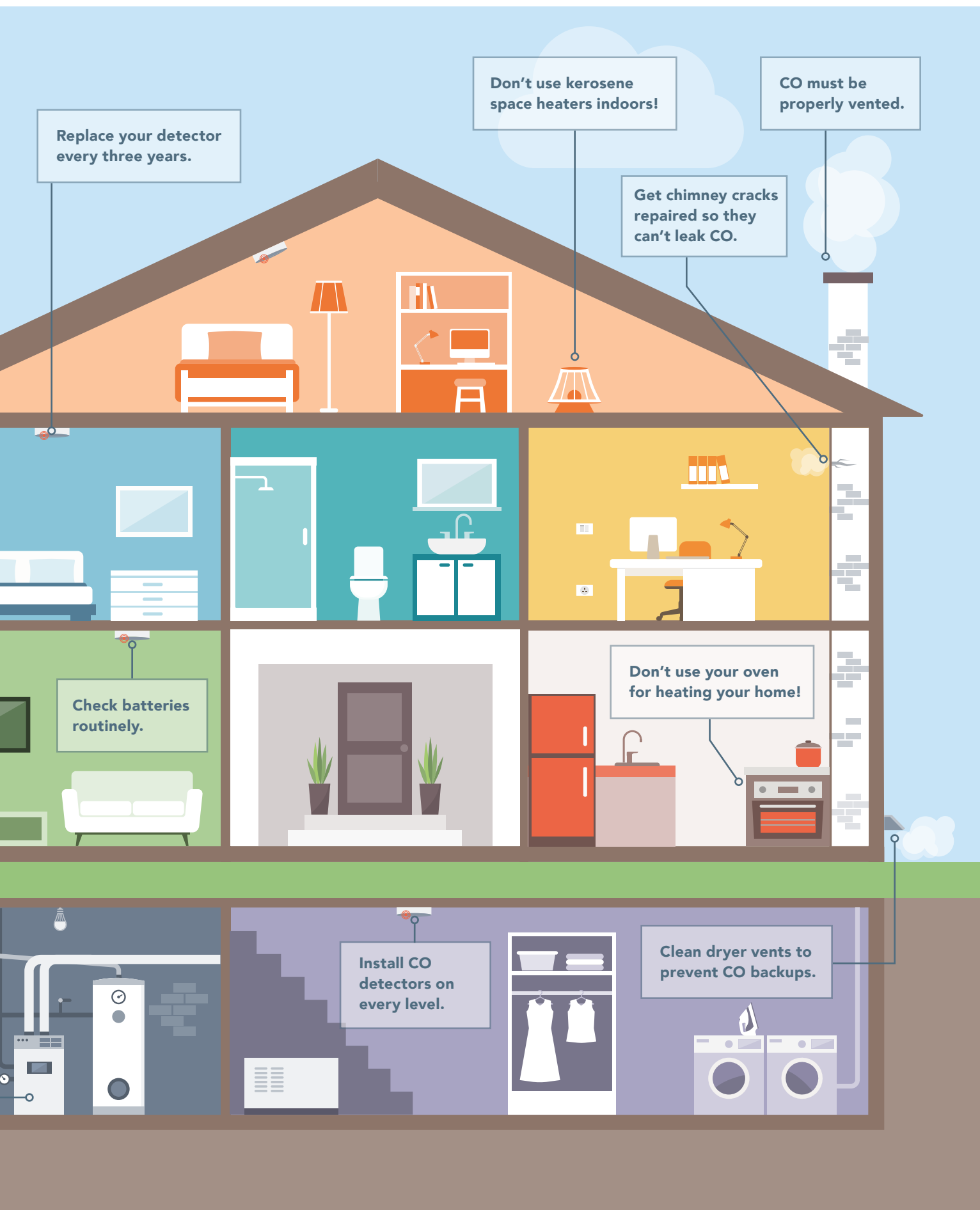
# CARBON MONOXIDE

## *Causes and Prevention*

### **CARBON MONOXIDE FACTS**

- CO poisoning is responsible for 20,000 ER visits every year.
- ER visits for CO poisoning are highest in the midwestern states.
- CO is a colorless, odorless gas which makes it more dangerous since it is invisible to the senses.
- Symptoms of CO poisoning include: nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, confusion, chest pain, and decreased level of consciousness.
- Children are more vulnerable to the poisonous effects of CO.









# A Greener North

## *Northport Energy Advocates For A Clean County*

By Rob Marsh

**A**n accountant, attorney, school teacher, and research scientist walk into a Northport conference room. No, this is not the beginning to a funny anecdote. These individuals and over 40 others gather once a month for one purpose: to advocate for a Leelanau County that is 100 percent powered by efficient and sustainable energy sources.

Founded in 2008, Northport Energy is a group of volunteers from the village of Northport and surrounding areas that have devoted their time to learning, educating, and advocating for renewable energy and energy conservation in their community. "We are a diverse group of people that are really motivated to do something," said Doug McInnis, board president of Northport Energy. "That's the key."

^  
The Northport Wastewater Treatment Plant is partially powered by a wind turbine and solar panels because of the efforts of Northport Energy.



Northport Energy's journey began how every green energy organization's journey should begin: with a hike. Climbing to the top of a hill near the Northport Wastewater Treatment Plant, Northport Energy Board Member Phil Von Voigtlander saw an opportunity for their first renewable energy project.

"I stood on that hill and thought, 'There are power lines coming in to run this wastewater treatment plant. I'm standing on top of this hill, and the wind's blowing,'" explained Von Voigtlander. "This was a 'duh' moment."

One proposal and a group of investors later, the Northport Wastewater Treatment Plant is being partially powered by a wind turbine and Northport Energy took off running.

In their 10-year existence, Northport Energy has focused on two areas of interest. The first is encouraging more renewable generation projects in their area, like that first wind turbine. "We've been involved with four to five different solar projects in the last few years, including the Northport Creek Golf Course: the first net-zero course in Michigan," explained member Dick Lang. "What we do is help get the projects started and promote them."

While they are not installing solar panels and wind turbines themselves, Northport Energy is laying the groundwork for these projects to take shape. For instance, Northport Energy has worked with local governmental units to develop language in zoning ordinances that would better prepare communities for interest in home renewable generation. "If you've got it on the books upfront, then it makes the whole process easier," said McInnis.

The second area of interest is educating their community about energy efficiency, or "low hanging fruit" as they call it. The group offers free home energy audits from trained volunteers and encourages homeowners to install energy-saving measures, such as replacing light bulbs and installing insulation. They've received grant money in the past to provide these measures to low-income households.

"We have been learning about performing home energy audits along the way and with help from Northport Energy members working in home construction," said McInnis. "It's amazing all the information that is out there!"

In recent years, Northport Energy has widened its scope to include advocating for clean transportation technology. In 2017, Northport Energy partnered with the Village of Northport to install public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations—the only EV charging stations in the northern end of Leelanau County.

The Village offers three charging stations: two designed to charge Tesla vehicles and one designed for all other EVs. "As an organization, we reached out to Tesla and they were

very happy to install chargers gratis," said Von Voigtlander. "It was a great cooperative effort among Tesla, the Village, and Northport Energy."

As an added bonus, drivers can charge their EVs on Northport Energy's dime. "We have promised to pay the bill, though we haven't received one yet," chuckled McInnis.

While they've set the bar high, Northport Energy has taken important and diverse steps towards achieving an efficient and clean Leelanau County. "When we started out, we had little knowledge about this," said McInnis. "We had to discover, work, and explore the different ways to approaching renewable energy and energy conservation. Now we are on our way."



Top: Volunteers help install solar panels near the Northport Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Bottom: Northport Energy educates the community on the benefits of electric vehicles, along with energy conservation and clean energy.



# Cocktails And Drinks

Shake things up with these easy-to-make, boozy drinks.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

## Mexican Sangria (pictured)

Mindy Aves, HomeWorks Tri-County

- 1 cup lime juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 bottles White Zinfandel wine
- 2 cups fresh orange juice
- ½ cup triple sec
- ½ cup tequila
- 2 cups frozen, seedless grapes (red, green, and purple)
- 2 cups sliced oranges or nectarines
- 1 cup sliced limes

Mix lime juice and sugar. Add wine, orange juice, triple sec and tequila. Chill until cold. Add fruit (may not need as much as called for.)



Watch a video of this recipe at  
[micoopkitchen.com/videos](http://micoopkitchen.com/videos)



## French Blonde

Jan Updike, Cherryland

- 1 cup ruby red grapefruit juice
- 1 cup Lillet Blanc (available at larger liquor or wine stores)
- ½ cup gin (or less to make it less alcoholic)
- ¼ cup St. Germain elderflower liqueur
- 4 dashes of lime or lemon bitters
- garnish with a slice of grapefruit or another citrus

Mix all ingredients in a suitably sized pitcher. Chill if needed. Serve in a martini glass. Garnish with a slice of grapefruit or another citrus. Makes approximately 3–4 drinks.



## Celery Sipper

Jodi Moelker, Great Lakes Energy

- 2 cups chopped celery, including leaves
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon celery seeds

In a medium bowl, stir together the chopped celery, sugar, water and celery seeds. Let stand, stirring occasionally until sugar dissolves. Chill, covered, 8 hours or overnight. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve. Transfer syrup to a lidded jar or bottle and store in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

For an alcoholic version, throw in an ounce or two of gin. For a non-alcoholic version, use celery sipper liquid to flavor soda water, adding a squeeze of lemon if desired. Serve immediately and enjoy!



## Fisherman's Punch

Arline Welty, Ontonagon REA

- 1 30-ounce bottle of 100% pure peach juice (no added sugar)
- 1 bottle (750 mL) dark rum
- 1 1-pint bottle (375 mL) brandy
- 5 ounces freshly squeezed lime juice
- 5 ounces freshly squeezed lemon juice

**Punch:** Chill the peach juice, rum and brandy. Squeeze limes and lemons. Pour all ingredients into a large plastic or non-reactive jug. Stir well to combine. Cover and place jug in the refrigerator to chill, at least 4 hours. If serving in a punch bowl, pour into a bowl over a large block of ice. Garnish with lime or lemon slices.

**Ice Block (Optional):** Wash and dry a rectangular cardboard milk carton. Cut off the top to create a rectangular mold. Pour filtered water to fill to 25 percent and add thinly sliced limes on top. Let freeze, and repeat process of adding water and limes, and freezing. This creates a block of ice with limes throughout, which looks nice in the punch bowl.



**Holiday Favorites:** due October 1  
**Pasta Perfect:** due November 1

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## FEATURED GUEST CHEF

Enjoy this creative cocktail from Iron Fish Distillery. Their true passion is to offer customers the craft of soil-to-spirit distilling from a family business that cares about their employees, community and the living land. Every step of the process—from growing and harvesting non-GMO grain to cultivating native yeast, milling, mashing, fermenting, distilling, aging, and bottling—is done by hand at their distillery. Cheers!



## Salted Maple Old Fashioned

- **Glass:** Rocks
- ½ Bar Spoon ( ¼ ounce ) of maple syrup
- 2-3 dashes of aromatic bitters
- 2 ounces maple bourbon
- **Garnish:** 5 salt flakes and an orange twist

Build ingredients in glass, combine with ice, and stir until chilled. This drink also tastes great with Iron Fish Experimental Barrel Finished Gin!

## Bourbon Whiskey Finished In Maple Syrup Barrels

**Bourbon Whiskey:** Iron Fish Distillery has some delicious local maple syrup, from the Griner Family Sugar Bush, that was aged in used whiskey barrels for months. Those whiskey barrels were then filled with a high rye bourbon and left to marry, resulting in a subtly sweet and deep flavor.

**Black Label Bourbon:** As the leaves began to fall, and while waiting for their own Iron Fish distilled whiskey to reach its prime, distillery staff came upon this spirit—a blend of corn, rye and malted barley in fired American oak barrels. The staff fell for it and gave it a trace of maple by finishing the spirit in aged whiskey barrels steeped in maple syrup. Settle in and enjoy this unique, thoughtful and distinct Bourbon—the beauty is in the contrast.

Both the Bourbon Whiskey and the Black Label Bourbon are available for purchase at Iron Fish Distillery.

Read the full story about Iron Fish Distillery, on page 14, and find this recipe and others at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).



# Yearning For Learning:

## Meet Our 2018 Scholarship Recipients

### High School Scholarship Recipients



**Ryan Bertschy** is a graduate of Saint Francis High School and currently completing AP classes and taking courses at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC). Ryan participated in high school JV and varsity sports, including playing Varsity lacrosse for two years. Ryan also served his community through service projects with Freedom Builders, Samaritan Charities and school mission and fundraiser activities. He plans on pursuing a career in the field of civil or chemical engineering at NMC and finishing his degree at Michigan Technological University.



**Abraham Gutzka** from Traverse City graduated with honors from Glen Lake High School. While attending high school, Abraham also attended Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) as an Early College student where he began a biomedical science degree. He will complete one more year at NMC before transferring to Grand Valley State University with a goal to eventually attend dental school. At NMC, Abraham is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. He is also a 16-year member of Long Lake 4-H Livestock Club where he has raised junior beef and steer projects.



**Christopher (John) Hettinger** completed his final year at both Benzie Central High School and the Manufacturing Technology Academy (MTA). During his last two years at Benzie Central and MTA, John was a part of the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. He graduated with a 4.0 and was his class's Valedictorian. In the fall, he will be attending Michigan Technological University to study computer and electrical engineering.

### Adult Scholarship Recipients

**Emily Sippola** is a second-career student and chronic volunteer. Between working, raising her kids, and going to classes, she speaks as a healthcare advocate, fosters animals for the Humane Society, and serves as president on her church's council. Emily is also a Young Advocate with Living Beyond Breast Cancer, engaged in development for the organization and advocacy for other young women diagnosed with breast cancer. She is working toward a career in genetic counseling to help other young women and families facing difficult medical and genetic testing decisions and results.

**Nancy Wright** has held a variety of caregiving positions, including helping the homeless, working 20 years with the disabled, doing senior caregiving, and being a mentor for children through Kids Hope USA. Nancy plans to achieve a master's degree of Christian counseling in addictive disorders. Her goal is to use her caregiving background and faith to create positive change in the face of the opioid crisis.

Learn more about Cherryland's scholarships at [cherrylandelectric.coop](http://cherrylandelectric.coop).

# Follow The Star

## Black Star Farms Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

By James A. Curtis

It could be said that Kerm Campbell's path to becoming proprietor of Northern Michigan's most unique destination for wine, spirits, hospitality, and cuisine was written in the stars.

"It all began when Kerm met Sallie—a Dutch girl and his future wife—when he began working for Dow Corning," said Sherri Campbell Fenton, director of communications and public affairs at Black Star Farms and daughter of Kerm and Sallie Campbell. "Then, the two moved overseas where they developed a taste and appreciation for viticulture while visiting the wine caves of western Europe."

Fenton visibly wells with pride as she recounts her parents' opportunities abroad, return to Michigan, and passion to buy land and plant grapes on the Old Mission and Leelanau Peninsulas. On March 31, 1998, Black Star Farms was officially founded. "Everything seemed to just fall into place," said Fenton.

Twenty years later, Black Star Farms has grown into an award-winning, one-of-a-kind experience in Northern Michigan. The winery itself produces up to 450 tons—or about 45,000 cases of wine—per year on approximately 180 acres of vineyards. Amazingly, half of the wine produced annually is consumed by the 150,000 guests visiting their tasting rooms on the Old Mission and Leelanau Wine Trails. The remaining wine is distributed and sold in 35 states.

Black Star Farms, however, is more than just a winery. Much like the constellations from which it draws inspiration, Black Star Farms is comprised of several bright spots that together complete its picture. A luxury inn, event spaces, farm-to-table café, equestrian facilities, high-end, wine-paired culinary events, two local production facilities and tasting rooms, a hiking and snowshoe trail through cherry groves, and more, embody the year-round experience Black Star Farms has evolved into after 20 years of operation.

"We have an exceptional wine, spirits, hospitality and culinary experience awaiting guests every day of the year," she said.

As the company looks back on the past two decades, Fenton gives reverence to the fruits of the earth. "The earth gives us everything we build our business on," said Fenton. "We take our responsibility to protect it seriously."

Black Star Farms considers sustainability in every aspect of their business—from installing energy-efficient lighting, to



Kerm Campbell, Proprietor of Black Star Farms

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*"The earth gives us everything we build our business on. We take our responsibility to protect it seriously."* —Sherri Campbell Fenton

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environmentally-responsible farming practices, to serving farm-to-table cuisine from their Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)-certified facilities. The winery named after a star is also in part powered by one—their recently constructed solar array provides nearly 20 percent of their power.

Fenton emphasizes the role of their electric cooperatives in those efforts, Cherryland Electric Cooperative and Wolverine Power Cooperative—who now power all members with 56 percent carbon-free energy. "We value our cooperative as a friend, partner, and community member," said Fenton. "We're not just a customer, and they take their responsibility to sustainability as seriously as we do."

With a growing business and a commitment to sustainability, Black Star Farms looks to shine bright for another 20 years—and beyond.



# BRINGING SPIRITS HOME

## Iron Fish Distillery Embraces Its Roots

By  
Rob  
Marsh

Every year Great Lakes steelhead return to their home in the Betsie River, running inland throughout northwest Michigan. Like these tenacious fish, the proprietors of Cherryland member Iron Fish Distillery in Thompsonville are returning the heritage of farm-distilled spirits back to the region.

Iron Fish is the only small-batch farm distillery in Michigan, but they are far from the first. "This area has a history of distilling small-batch spirits," said Richard Anderson, co-owner of Iron Fish. "Before Prohibition, there were plenty of people in this area distilling their own spirits on their farms."

These farms were a memory for Anderson's wife, Sarah, and her sister, Heidi, when they were young, spending their

summers visiting family in Benzonia. Heidi and her husband, David, later bought a seasonal home on the Betsie River, near the 120-acre farm that would later become the home of Iron Fish.

"It was a second-generation family farm that had been abandoned for a decade or so," said Anderson. "David and Heidi bought the land to save the farmhouse and barn and preserve the farm from being parceled up and sold."

While they enjoyed spirits, Anderson and his family didn't have plans to start a second career, let alone open a distillery on the property. It took a birthday trip to Scotland to give them the push they needed. "Touring distilleries in Islay, Scotland, we came across a farm distillery which really fed our passion for returning to northern Michigan to start our own farm distillery. That was when we began to take this idea that we could distill spirits seriously."

Within three years of returning from Scotland, Iron Fish became a reality.

From the beginning, Anderson quickly realized that they were doing something special. "Last year over Labor Day weekend, we just opened our doors. We didn't have the time to do a soft opening," said Anderson. "And within days of opening the tasting room, we sold out of our vodka!"



To date, Iron Fish has won over 10 national awards for their spirits, become the vodka provider for premium seating at Ford Field in Detroit, and started distributing their products to over 600 Michigan locations and throughout Chicago, Illinois. "It's going better than we thought," chuckled Anderson.

Iron Fish embraces their roots and takes full advantage of their farm's natural resources, using the property's grain for distilling spirits, growing their own cocktail garnishes in a bartender's garden, and supplying mash as cattle feed for local farmers. "We are a full ecosystem here. It's been our commitment to create a sustainable, working landscape."

This commitment to the land extends to their neighbors as well. In addition to hosting community and charitable events, Iron Fish partners with local farms and uses their products in Iron Fish spirits. "When someone drinks our white rum, they taste honey from Sleeping Bear Farms. And when someone drinks our gin, they taste sprigs of Concolor Fir from Antioch Tree Farm. We are perfecting the craft and art of distilling while giving back to our community."

Like the schools of steelhead working their way up the river, the people at Iron Fish Distillery are determined to continue the northwest Michigan tradition of distilling. All the while, they are supporting the land and the community who depends on it. 🐟



Iron Fish's four family partners, staff, and distribution representative gather to see their first pallet of spirits placed into statewide distribution. Iron Fish spirits can be found in over 600 Michigan locations as well as throughout Chicago, Illinois.



**For more information about Iron Fish Distillery and to access a special coupon code for a tour of the facility, visit [ironfishdistillery.com](https://ironfishdistillery.com).**

The coupon code is good for 50 percent off the cost of a tour through 2018, normally \$10. Enter CODE: **MCL2018** on the "Tour" tab of their website and complete the registration, by selecting the date, time and number of people.

Visit [ironfishdistillery.com](https://ironfishdistillery.com) to book a tour.



Visit [countrylines.com](https://countrylines.com) to learn more about Iron Fish Distillery and the craft beverage scene in Michigan on a special episode of the Co-op Energy Talk podcast, hosted by Cherryland Electric Cooperative.





# Photo Contest

## Fall Colors

1. "Taking in a sunset at the High Rollaways near Buckley" by Michael Palko
2. "I never knew how much joy a well-raked pile of leaves could bring, until this moment!" by Stephanie Maskart
3. "Will you marry me?" by Marla Bidwell
4. "Colorful smile" by Sarah Gum
5. "I can fly!" by Mark Engler



Most Votes On Facebook!

### Submit Your "Celebrations" Photos!

Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the most votes from our Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites.

Our September theme is **Celebrations**. Photos can be submitted from **September 1 to September 20** to be featured in our November/December issue.

### Enter Your Photos And Win A Bill Credit!

To enter the contest visit [facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop](https://facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop) and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. If you're not on Facebook, that's okay. You can also enter the contest at [cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest](https://cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest). Enter your picture, cast your vote, and encourage others to vote for you as well. If your photo is printed in *Country Lines* during 2018, you will be entered to win a credit of up to \$200 on your December 2018 bill.

Enter to win a  
**\$200**  
energy bill  
credit!

## **Notice To Members Of Cherryland Electric Cooperative**

### **Case No. U-16591 2017 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary**

Michigan law requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately two percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012 and increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Cherryland Electric Cooperative submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2017, Cherryland acquired a total of 65,061 renewable energy credits and 981 incentive credits from Thunder Bay—Four Mile. All credit transfers were directed through Cherryland's wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. Wolverine will continue to generate renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all of its members.

A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at [cherrylandelectric.coop](http://cherrylandelectric.coop) or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

## **Public Act 295, as amended by Public Act 342: The Clean Renewable And Efficient Energy Act**

### **2017 Annual Energy Waste Reduction Report**

#### **Cherryland Electric Cooperative MPSC Case Number U-18273**

During 2017, Cherryland Electric Cooperative administered its own Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) plan in order to comply with PA-295. Previously, Cherryland submitted its EWR plan with the MPSC. This EWR plan was approved by the MPSC and Cherryland implemented all 2017 residential, commercial, and industrial programs and self-certified the kWh savings.

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's EWR program achieved/exceeded the savings goals while being under budget. The full report can be obtained at your cooperative's headquarters.

# **Your Board In Action**

## **June Board Meeting Highlights**

- The board welcomed members to the quarterly member input session. The members and board discussed solar in the region.
- The board approved revisions to the co-op's suite of member-solar programs. The co-op will continue to offer three solar programs: community solar, net-metering, and buy-all sell-all. Changes were made to the buy-all sell-all program only.
- The board approved a data privacy tariff. The tariff is available on the co-op's website.

## **July Board Meeting Highlights**

- The board held their annual reorganizational meeting to elect officers. The current board officers were elected to continue holding those offices.
- The co-op's engineering and operations manager gave the board an update on this year's work plan projects. Every year, Cherryland repairs, upgrades, or replaces up to 25 miles of electrical infrastructure across their service territory.
- The board approved changes to the co-op's meter tampering policy.
- As part of the co-op's Revolving Loan Fund, the board approved a zero-interest loan for the purchase of a new fire truck for Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GT Metro). Cherryland has given \$3.6 million in zero-interest loans locally since 1998.



Guess this photo and enter to win a \$50 energy bill credit!



## Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo above by September 20 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number and the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the July/August 2018 issue is Kevin Dubord, an Alger Delta Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as the Shrine of Bishop Frederick Baraga. He was also known as the Snowshoe Priest who became the first Bishop of the Upper Peninsula and the Apostle of the Great Lakes.

Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.

### July/August 2018



## Best Cider Mills

Between the cider, doughnuts, hayrides and corn mazes, cider mills provide a great day out for families. Enjoy a perfect fall day at one of these awesome cider mills recommended by your fellow co-op members.



### 1 Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill, St. Johns

Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill has the best cider, donuts, Michigan gifts and paintings. It's just about the neatest place to go. —*Marilyn Fitzpatrick, HomeWorks Tri-County*

### 2 VerHage Fruit Farms & Cider Mill, Kalamazoo

VerHage Fruit Farms & Cider Mill is by far THE BEST cider I have ever tasted! There are no preservatives and nothing added except real apples and sometimes other fall fruit. They also have homemade doughnuts, pick your own apples, shopping, music, hayrides, a zip line and more fun for kids at nominal prices. If you haven't been to VerHage Cider Fruit Farms & Cider Mill farm you need to go there! If you have...you already know what I'm talking about...They are open from the spring with all kinds of fruit and fresh baked goods through the holidays in December. —*Sue Gottlieb, Midwest Energy & Communications*

### 3 Klackle Orchards, Greenville

Klackle Orchards has something for everyone. You will not be disappointed by making a trip to Klackle! The donuts and cider are to die for. —*Shelly Dunn, Great Lakes Energy*

### 4 Friske Orchard & Farm Market, Ellsworth

Friske Orchard & Farm Market is a bushel of fun! Families love the outdoor orchard playland and the animal petting zoo, self-guided nature walk, you-pick fruit and festive events—many of which include live music and wagon rides! They also have homemade doughnuts and pies, a fruit stand, Michigan products and so much more! —*Walter Dorr, Presque Isle Electric & Gas*

### 5 Knaebe's Mmmunchy Krunchy Apple Farm & Cider Mill, Rogers City

Knaebe's Mmmunchy Krunchy Apple Farm & Cider Mill is as unique as its name. It's a great place to indulge in all things fall! Plus, [cider mill goers can find] great wood-fired pizza and craft hard cider. —*Gerry Baller, Presque Isle Electric & Gas*



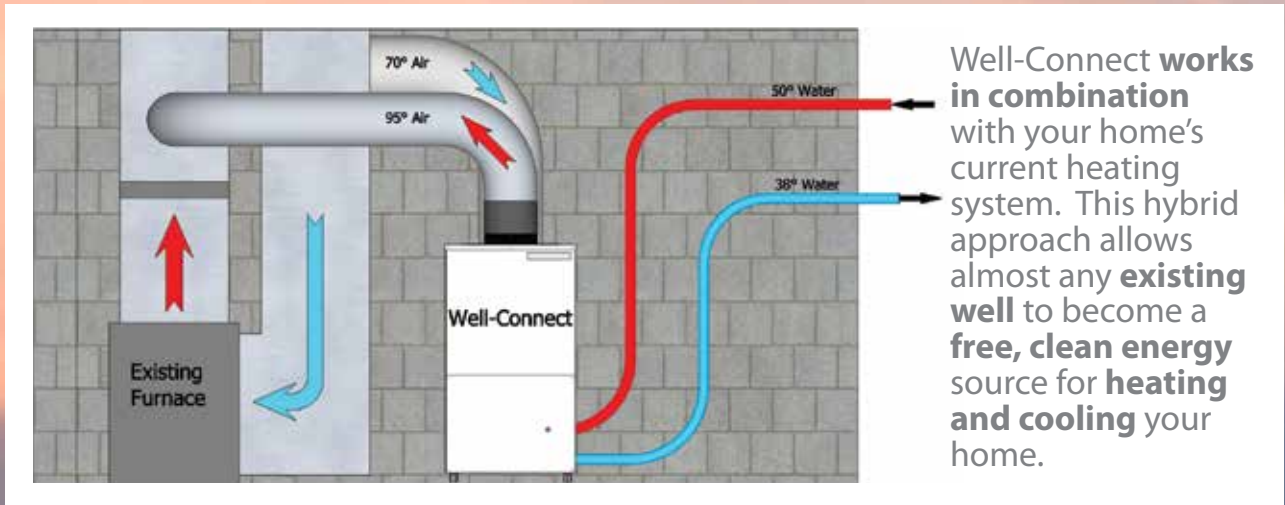
## Best of Michigan

**Up Next:** Share your favorite Michigan snowmobile trails. Help your fellow readers explore some new places this winter. We will publish these trails in our Nov/Dec issue.

Submit your favorites at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) under the MI Co-op Community tab by October 1.

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To all who made our  
*80th Annual Meeting*  
so special...

*Thank You!*