

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association



Meet The Co-op's
Newest Lineman

Yopper
Service Dogs

Interlochen—Making
Beautiful Music

BRINGING SPIRITS HOME

Iron Fish Distillery
Embraces Its Roots



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[Win \\$150 for stories published.](#)

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 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.



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OTHER INFORMATION

Date of Incorporation: Sept. 30, 1937
Fiscal year-end: Dec. 31
countrylines.com/coops/ontonagon

Ontonagon County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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What Is Grid Resiliency?

Debbie Miles, General Manager

The resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid—resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in Michigan, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things—it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation—such as wind, solar, coal and hydro—to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong—or as resilient—as it can be.

Living in Michigan, we know that significant power outages can occur all throughout the year due to our seasonal weather changes. Whether we're at the mercy of a thunderstorm or ice storm, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward—day in and day out!

MEET YOUR CO-OP'S NEW LINEMAN

Like Father Like Son

Hancock native Brady Erickson is Ontonagon REA's newest apprentice lineman who began working for the co-op in May.

When asked what made him choose this line of work, he responded with a grin, "Well, it helped that my Dad was a lineman." Brady's father is Ontonagon REA's senior lineman Nels Erickson. Growing up as the second oldest of 16 children taught Brady a thing or two about how to work cooperatively as a team to get things done. These traits will transfer well to working on the Ontonagon REA team.

Brady graduated from Northern Michigan University's line technician program and spent almost three years working on the East Coast prior to joining Ontonagon REA. In his spare time, the 22-year-old enjoys camping, hunting, fishing and jet-skiing. "All of my hobbies made me miss and want to come back to the U.P.," he reflects. "I was pretty excited when this opportunity came up at the co-op."

Brady and his wife, Molly, are expecting their first child soon.



Notice to Members Of Ontonagon County REA

Case No. U-16595 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, Ontonagon County REA submits an Annual Report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2017, Ontonagon County REA acquired a total of 2148 renewable energy credits. Ontonagon County REA will continue to acquire 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 ontonagon.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 Ontonagon County REA MPSC Case Number U-18277

During 2017, Ontonagon Cooperative REA administered its Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) plan through the Michigan Electric Cooperative Collaborative in order to comply with PA-295. Previously, Ontonagon, through the Collaborative, submitted its EWR plan with the MPSC. This EWR plan was approved by the MPSC. The Collaborative implemented the EWR Plan during 2017.

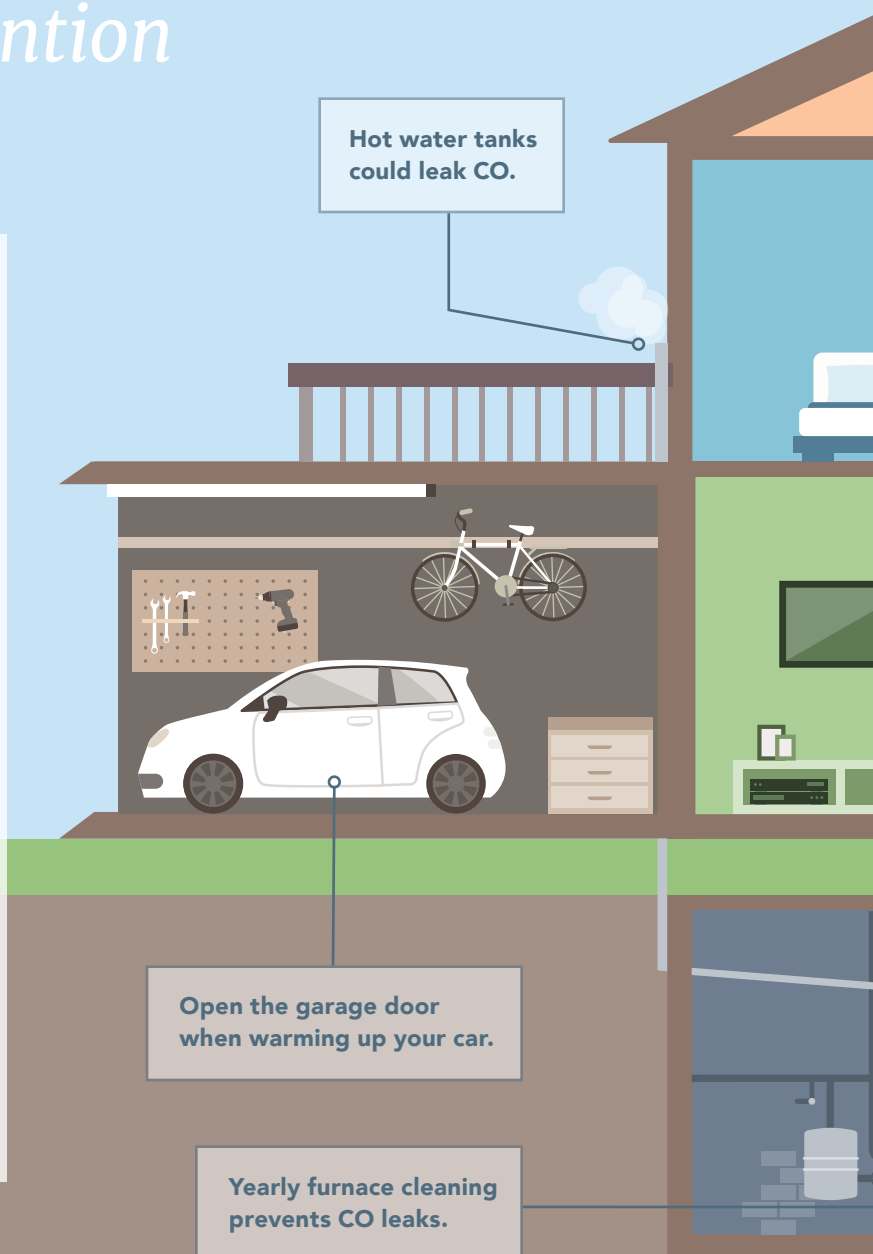
Overall Ontonagon achieved a goal at approximately 104 percent savings. The full report can be obtained at your cooperative's headquarters.

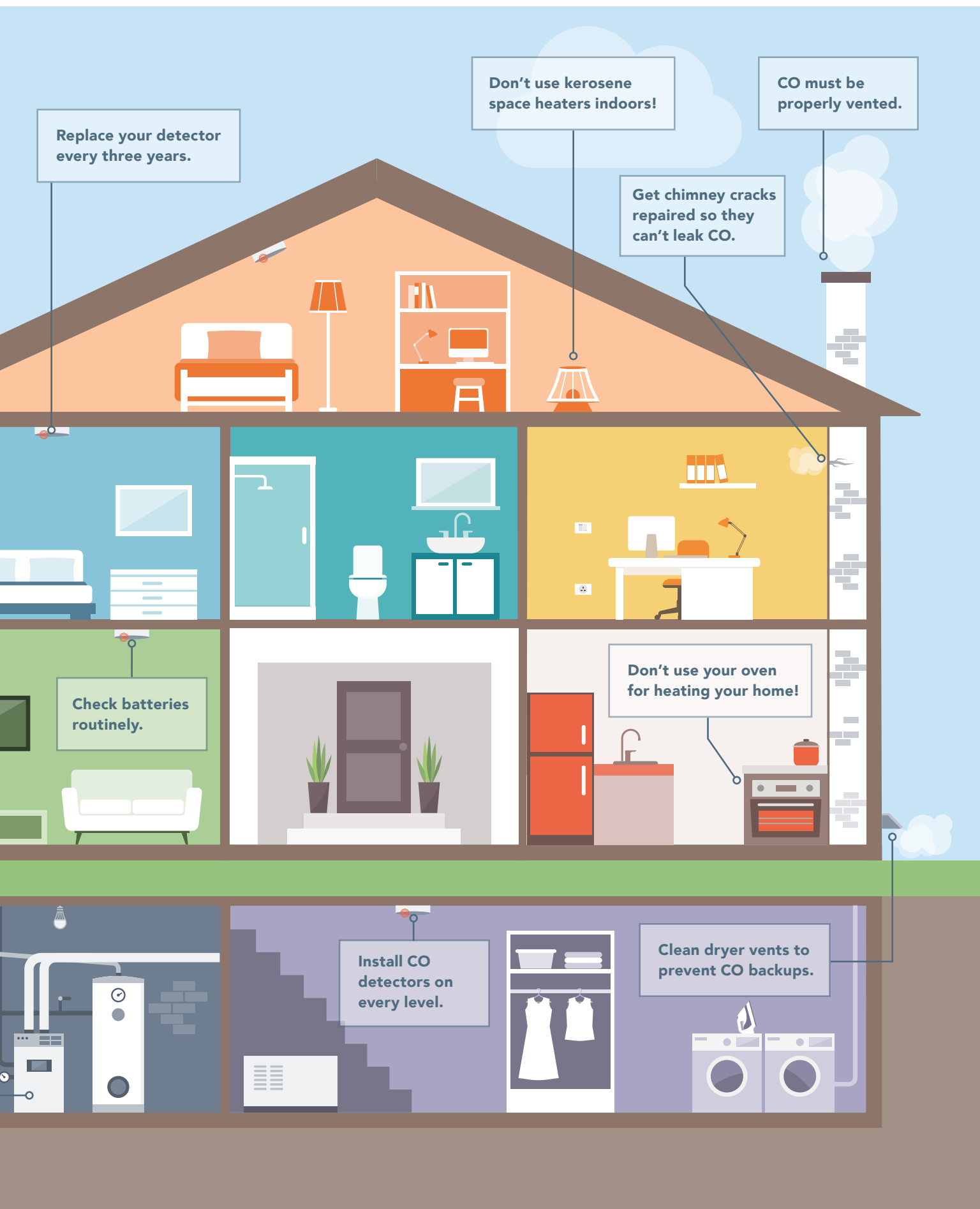
CARBON MONOXIDE

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.





Get Cozy And Save Energy

Cooler weather is on the way. Now is the time to take action and upgrade your outdated, inefficient furnace. Doing so will help you save energy and money for years to come, and also ensure consistent, evenly-distributed air throughout your home—improving your overall comfort.

Plus, cash incentives are now available from the Energy Optimization program!

HVAC REBATES

(visit michigan-energy.org for amounts)

New furnace with ECM blower motor

ECM blower motor replacement

Central Air-source Heat Pump

Mini/Multi-Split Air-Source Heat Pump

Ground Source Heat Pump

Wi-Fi-enabled or smart thermostat

**Combo bonus rebates available for purchasing multiple pieces of equipment.*

What is an ECM Motor?

An electronically commutated motor adjusts operating speeds, ensures optimal airflow, and uses less electricity—saving you energy and money.

If you can't afford to purchase a new furnace, replace your existing blower motor with an ECM to improve efficiency. Since the blower motor uses about 80 percent of the total electricity consumed by the furnace, switching to an energy-saving ECM can make a major impact.

Heat Pumps: Even More

Efficient heat pumps use electricity to move heat, rather than generate heat. Air-source heat pumps are the most common, and can reduce electricity use for heating by up to 50 percent. For homes without ducts, mini-split heat pumps are available.

Geothermal (ground-source) heat pumps achieve even higher efficiencies by transferring heat between your home and the ground. They can cost up to 75 percent less to operate compared to conventional heating or cooling methods. Consult your HVAC contractor for recommendations.

Buy a New Thermostat

Wi-Fi-enabled and smart thermostats help control energy costs by allowing you to program and adjust temperatures remotely, 24/7. Smart thermostats can program themselves as they "learn" your behavior patterns and desired temperatures.

Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for additional energy-saving information and incentives.

SAVE ON HEATING COSTS

Want to reduce energy use, save money, and enjoy a more comfortable home? CASH INCENTIVES are available now to help you invest in equipment upgrades:

- High-efficiency furnace
- ECM blower motor
- Air-source or ground-source heat pump
- Smart thermostat
- ...and more!

VIEW ALL INCENTIVE OFFERS ONLINE!

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

get cozy



Photo Contest

Fall Colors

1. Fall is a burst of color, turning the Hanka Homestead Road into a path from a fairy tale. *By Rhonyah Tober-Massie, Pelkie*
2. It was raining leaves after Tyler scooped a handful and threw them in the air. *By Amy Coon, Hancock*
3. What could be better than picking crisp red Jonathan apples in the Fall? *By Jeanne Houle Peters, Calumet*
4. A beautiful autumn Northwoods morning. *By Lynda Graham, Ewen*
5. In Aura, overlooking Lake Superior from our front deck. *By Cathy Bier, Lanse*



1



3



2



4



5

Submit A Photo & Win A Bill Credit!

Ontonagon REA members whose photos we print in *Michigan Country Lines* will be entered in a drawing. One lucky member will win a credit up to \$200 on their December 2018 energy bill!

Our upcoming topics and deadlines are:

- **Celebrations due September 20** for the Nov/Dec issue
- **Cutest Kids due October 20** for the January 2019 issue

To submit photos, and for details and instructions, go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

Enter to win a
\$200
energy bill
credit!



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



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

Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*.

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.

Enter to win a
\$50
energy bill
credit!

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.



Left: Katie and her devoted service dog, Coco.

Below: Katie and Coco at the Marine Corps Ball.



YOOPER SERVICE DOGS



Assisting God's Country With Man's Best Friend

By Yvonne Whitman

In 2016, when Marine Corps veteran Katie Johnson started a Facebook group for service dog handlers in the Upper Peninsula, she did not know it would ultimately result in the creation of her U.P. based nonprofit organization, Yooper Service Dogs (YSD). Johnson, an Alger Delta co-op member, who served nine years and was deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, was left with several medical issues related to her military service. As a result, her faithful service dog, Coco, has been her constant companion since 2014.

According to Johnson, she began her FB group because, "When I was out with Coco, I would get questions non-stop from people who had disabilities or had children with disabilities and needed help."

Questions poured in not only from people who wanted to know how to get a service dog, but also from businesses and the public seeking information. Fueled by the apparent need for U.P. based resources, "Yooper Service Dogs was

really created as an accidental organization," Johnson states with a chuckle.

Prior to Johnson creating Yooper Service Dogs, there were no organizations in the U.P. that offered this service. Historically, lack of training creates a problem not only for businesses but for other service dog handlers as well. For example, when a service dog is distracted by an untrained dog, the handler may be put in danger when the animal doesn't alert to a medical emergency. And an untrained dog encountering another dog in an unfamiliar environment often results in it becoming aggressive out of fear, putting the service dog in danger. Sadly, service dogs have been injured and killed in this way, leaving the handler emotionally, medically and financially devastated.

Education is key; but for decades, businesses, service dog handlers and the public have been on their own with trying to figure out how multiple state and federal laws affect

“When I was out with Coco, I would get questions non-stop from people who had disabilities or had children with disabilities and needed help.”

—Katie Johnson

their lives and businesses. And handlers have been faced with the difficult task of training their own service animals. Johnson created YSD to offer resources, education and service dog training as well as mediation.

Katie’s own experiences were part of the impetus for creating her organization. “I was constantly fighting the Marine Corps to be able to have her.” Katie obtained Coco through Healing 4 Heroes, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting military service members and veterans suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other medical conditions with Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant service dogs. Through various organizations Katie learned the skills that she currently uses to assist others.

Training a service dog generally takes one to two years and the initial step is for an individual to sit down with Katie for an orientation assessment, during which she learns what their life is like and what they need. “I talk to the person to see what their needs or disabilities are. PTSD is the most common need that people come to see me for as there is a lot of trauma in the world today,” she acknowledges.

The initial assessment allows Katie to determine what type of dog would be best for the person, and it gives her some preliminary ideas on how they can train the dog. If they already have the dog, she discusses what kind of personality the dog has, conducts a temperament test and discusses initial classes. Training begins with biweekly Saturday morning training sessions. No more than five people in a session at a time ensures adequate one-on-one interaction.

Yoopers Service Dog’s impact is best reflected by a Facebook post from Patty Cornish. Cornish is a U.P. resident, founder and leader at SuperiorLand Pet Partners, a therapy dog organization in Ishpeming. She wrote, “This is a needed resource for public education and to direct people who need service animals to where they can go. I am glad to see that people can get help and information on a local level.”

Leave it to a Marine Corps veteran to put into action the well-known motto of Semper Fi. Always faithful, indeed.



You can find Katie Johnson on Facebook at [Yoopers Service Dogs](#) or email her at YoopersServiceDogs@gmail.com.
Yoopers Service Dogs is donation-based and staffed by dedicated volunteers.



Above: Coco—now seven years old—was just two when she became Katie’s service dog.



Above and below: ‘Students’ at a Yoopers Service Dogs training class.





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.

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 to book a tour.



Visit 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.



Interlochen Making Beautiful Music In Northern Michigan

By Emily Haines Lloyd // Photos courtesy of Interlochen Center for the Arts



In Interlochen, Michigan, nestled within 1,200 acres of woods with not one, but two crystal blue lakes sparkling with glints of light, is an idyllic setting worthy of an opening sequence in a movie. With its rustic-looking cabins, noticeable absence of technology, and campers rushing off to their activities, it's not unlike other summer camps.

But, as they say, it's all about the details.

Take a closer look to see campers in their iconic blue polo shirts, walking along with instrument cases, sheet music, scripts, portfolios and a variety of accessories that display the fact that Interlochen is no ordinary summer camp. Each year Interlochen plays host to approximately 2,500 third through 12th-grade students from around the world who want to make something beautiful over their summer vacation.

"The Interlochen Arts Camp experience gathers students and teachers from all over the country and the world in an intensive, inspiring artistic experience that trains and rejuvenates young artists," said Jason Hubbard, vice

president of academy programs. "The reservoir of skills and experiences informs their practice and continues to inspire their work throughout the year."

Interlochen Arts Camp, formerly called National High School Orchestra Camp, has been in operation since 1928. It expanded its efforts in 1962 when it opened its year-round boarding school—Interlochen Arts Academy, which now hosts approximately 500 students each year from grades nine through 12. Both programs offer young artists opportunities to explore their craft in a variety of disciplines like music, theater, creative writing, dance, film, visual arts and more, while building in authentic camp experiences like off-campus field trips or lake activities.

While you'll find a large number of campers and students who hope to one day have a career in the arts, there are just as many who will one day find careers as software designers, teachers, or accountants, but the long-term impact can be equally significant.

"Students come to Interlochen to find their voice, to develop in their artistry, and to find their people," said Leslie Donaldson, director of engagement.

This finding of one's tribe is a common theme. Famous alumnus Josh Groban, an actor and vocalist, talked about his experience as a camper at Interlochen Arts Camp on Bloomberg TV in 2015.

"You're surrounded by nature, on a lake, and you're also surrounded by kids from all over the country and all over the world who share the same passion for the arts as you do," said Groban. "It was the first place I realized I was not an outcast."

Interlochen provides world-class instruction in the arts for its campers and provides a variety of performances, shows and interactions for art lovers from the region. In 2018, Interlochen announced a new Day Camp program that invites local residents in grades six through 12 the opportunity to attend three and six week programs at a substantially discounted rate. Now, community members can more than enjoy the performances against the camp's idyllic backdrop, they actually have the opportunity to participate.

Yes, Interlochen is brimming with talented artists, unlike your average camp program. But at its core, it is all about the students and the opportunity for them to produce beautiful art, make lifelong friends and create cherished memories. So maybe, at its heart, Interlochen is exactly what summer camp is all about.



See all featured events online
at tickets.interlochen.org or
call 800-681-5920.

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 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

Friskie 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*



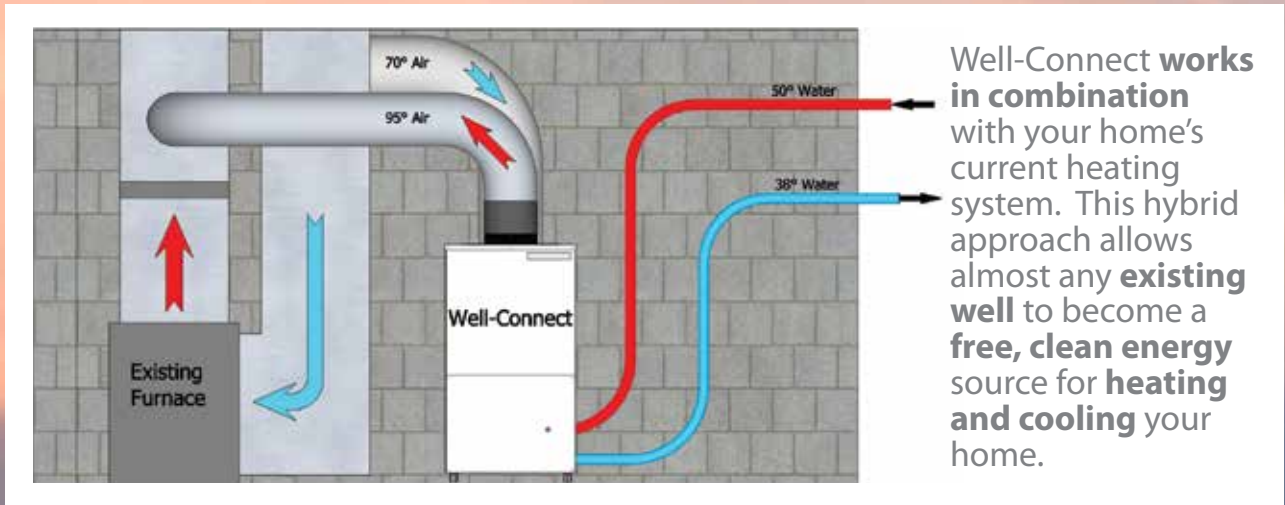
Best of Michigan

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 under the MI Co-op Community tab by October 1.

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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.**

Self-nominations are accepted.