

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Thumb Electric Cooperative



BRINGING SPIRITS HOME

Meet Our Youth Tour
Attendees

Three New Employees
Join TEC's Team

Iron Fish Distillery
Embraces Its Roots



Harness the power of the sun...

...by using the Earth.



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countrylines.com

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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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Best Of Michigan: Best Cider Mills
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stay warm!

[Guess Our New Mystery Photo And Win A \\$50 Bill Credit!](#)

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

Guest Column

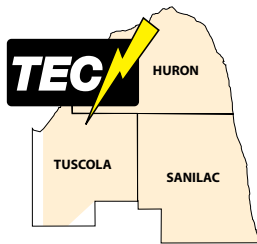
Country Lines
invites members to
submit stories.

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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PAYMENT STATIONS

Huron County

Bad Axe—Northstar Bank
Pigeon—Northstar Bank

Tuscola County

Akron—Northstar Bank
Caro—Northstar Bank
Mayville—Mayville State Bank
Millington—Mayville State Bank

Sanilac County

Sandusky—Northstar Bank

Visit Thumb Electric's website
tecmi.coop



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Thumb Electric Cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.



Director Commitment Makes A Difference

Dallas Braun, General Manager

As an electric cooperative, Thumb Electric is guided by an elected board of directors who represent its members' best interest when making decisions. Bylaws, policies and required director educational courses through National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) help guide directors in their decision-making process. Being a member of the cooperative's board is not to be taken lightly and is an important position of commitment and responsibility. Decisions made by the board of directors have an impact on political and practical matters, including things like energy policy, reliability, rates, patronage, and system improvements.

Thumb Electric is a multi-million dollar electric utility. Being a director with this level of responsibility requires an understanding of the community's needs, while at the same time serving the cooperative members' best interest. This balancing act requires a director to be engaged and knowledgeable on the issues.

It is important to attract and retain strong directors who have broad experience and fresh ideas and perspectives that help develop strategies and enact policies that help Thumb Electric be competitive, provide great service, and meet financial goals and obligations.

Thumb Electric's board consists of nine directors, three from distinct geographical areas in each county of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola. Thumb Electric's board is a democratically elected body nominated by the members of the cooperative and voted into position by any member that chooses to participate in the cooperative's open election process. At Thumb Electric's Annual Meeting held at the Thumb Octagon barn near Gagetown, members vote on three director positions, one from each county, to serve a three-year term.

Each member of the cooperative has one vote and is encouraged to participate in the process. Next year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2019. Pencil the date in to exercise your right to vote; and while you are there, enjoy the many historical and educational items on display at the Octagon Barn property.

Meet Thumb Electric's YOUTH TOUR ATTENDEES

Every June, we sponsor students from local high schools to represent Thumb Electric on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour—a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership travel opportunity to Washington, D.C.

Thumb Electric's representatives were Jazmyn Warchuck of Ruth and Pearl Daskam of Ubly. Learn more about this year's students and why they wanted to attend Youth Tour.



Pearl Daskam (left) and Jazmyn Warchuck (right) in front of the Capitol building.

JAZMYN WARCHUCK

When first applying to attend Youth Tour, I was expecting something much like most of my FFA trips. However, I was soon proven wrong. I knew this trip was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when I experienced the warm and welcoming team that welcomed me in Portland. From that point on I was in awe of the amazing people on the trip that helped accentuate the amazing connection that the co-ops have with their members. This, paired with the co-op's goal to expand not only the knowledge of what they are but the sense of everyone coming together, really made this trip an experience that cannot be found elsewhere.

PEARL DASKAM

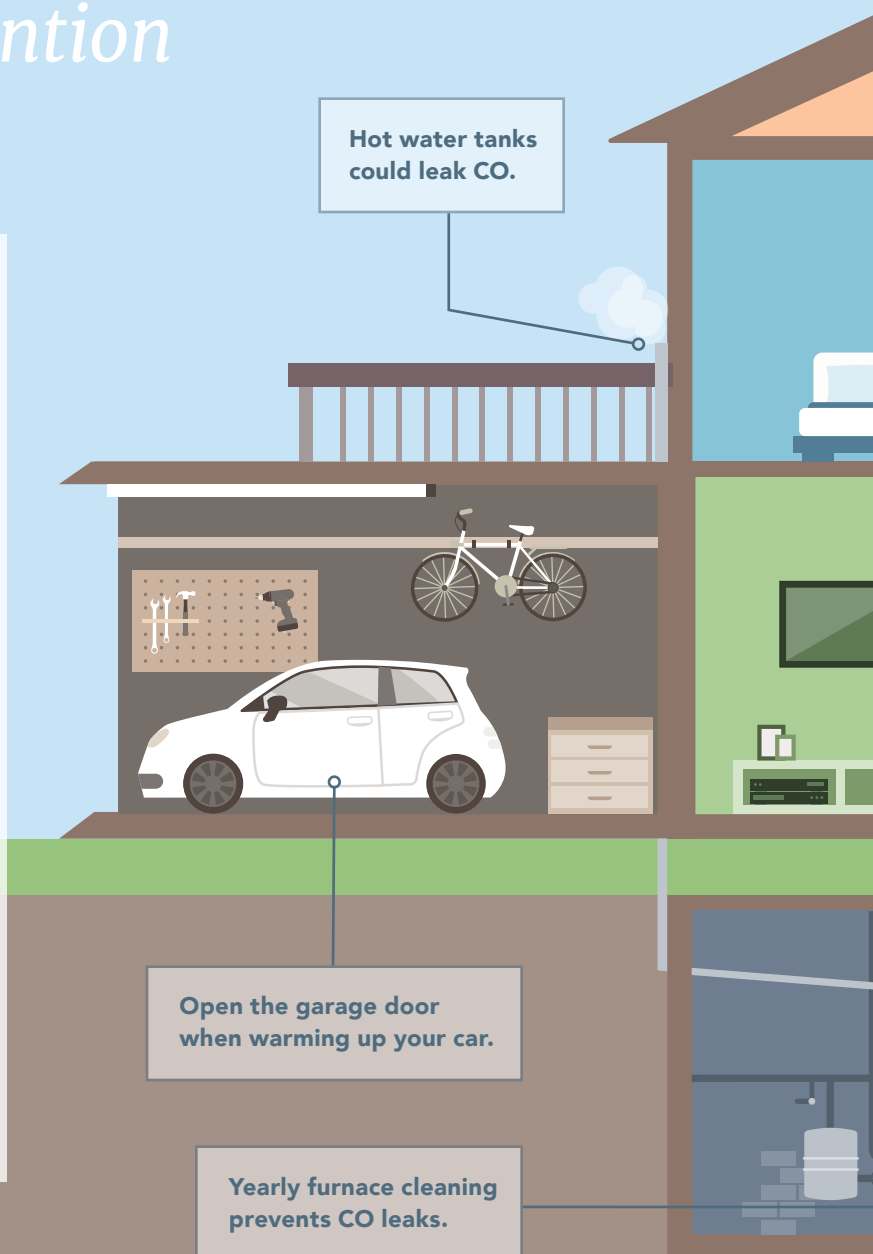
During the 2018 Michigan Youth Tour to Washington D.C., I was honored to be selected as the 2018 Youth Leadership Council representative for Michigan. This allowed me to return to D.C. in July with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for a leadership conference, meet all of the other state representatives, and learn more about electric cooperatives. My favorite part of the trip was meeting with employees of National Rural Telecommunications Council (NRTC) and Touch Stone Energy, including the CEOs of NRECA and Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). They were very engaging with us and excited to have us there. I cannot wait to represent the Great Lakes State and Thumb Electric Cooperative at the NRECA National Meeting in Orlando, Fla., in March 2019!

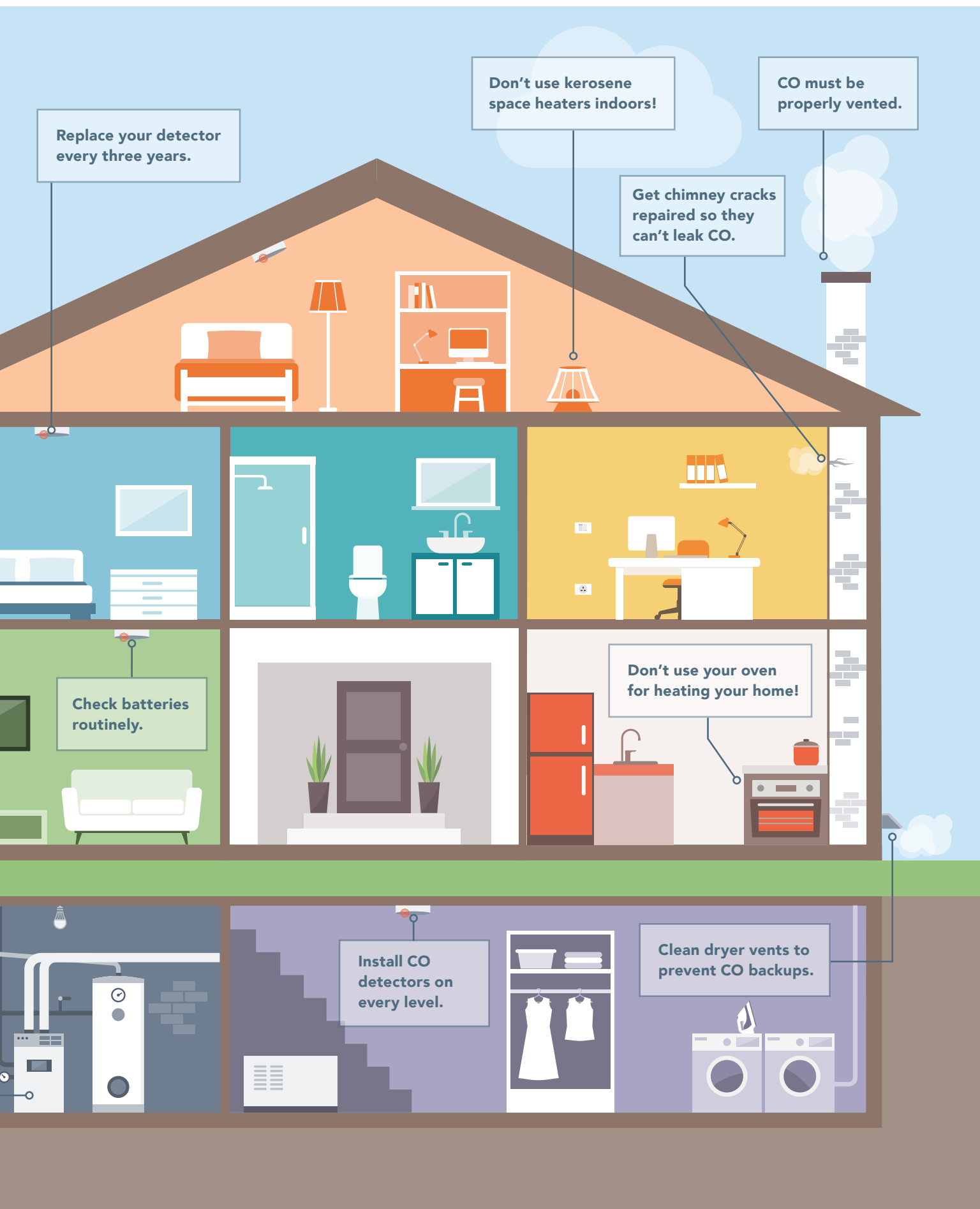
CARBON MONOXIDE

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.





Replace your detector every three years.

Don't use kerosene space heaters indoors!

CO must be properly vented.

Get chimney cracks repaired so they can't leak CO.

Check batteries routinely.

Don't use your oven for heating your home!

Install CO detectors on every level.

Clean dryer vents to prevent CO backups.

Thumb Electric Saves Members Energy And Money

Since 2009, Thumb Electric has been required by PA 295 to offer programs to members to help them reduce their usage and, as a result, save them money. Starting in 2017, PA 342 of 2016 replaces PA 295 with a few minor changes, such as a name change from Energy Optimization to Energy Waste Reduction. In 2017, TEC's goal was to achieve an overall savings of 1,706,834 kWh. Through programs such as LED lighting rebates, HVAC upgrade rebates, appliance recycling rebates, and rebates for Energy Star appliances, we were able to overachieve and save 2,160,246 kWh with over 1,000 members participating in some form. For every \$1.00 invested in Energy Optimization over \$4.00 in savings is achieved.



The program continues in 2018 with very similar cost-saving programs in place for 2018 and beyond. Thumb Electric has a long history of saving members money and energy, offering programs in heating and cooling (such as energy audits) to show members how much they can save

by installing cost-saving equipment, such as geothermal furnaces, air source heat pumps, and baseboard heating.

For more information on energy saving rebates, please visit tecni.coop or give us a call at 800-327-0166.

Recycle That Old Refrigerator Or Freezer And Get Cash Back! \$\$\$\$\$

Receive \$50 for an old refrigerator or freezer and \$20 for an old window AC* unit or dehumidifier.*



Call 844-631-2130 to schedule your pick up today!

*Small appliances will only be picked up in conjunction with a larger unit.



Meet Thumb Electric's New Employees

Thumb Electric recently hired three new employees. We are proud to introduce them to our community!



Billing Representative Jennifer Jones began at Thumb Electric on February 26, 2018, and came to us from the Gemini Group where she worked with the human resource department for 12 years. She has a bachelor's degree in business management and enjoys working with people. She and her significant other, Brian, have an 18-year-old son, Aaron, who recently graduated from high school and is off to Ferris State University this fall. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys camping and spending time with family.



Lineman Jason Kuhl started March 13, 2018, at the Caro warehouse. Jason comes to us from Hydaker-Wheatlake and prior to that Sebewaing Light and Water where he was also a lineman. He and his wife, Anissa, have two sons, Dawson and Treston. In his free time, he enjoys bowling, riding dirt bikes and going up north to the cabin.



Lineman Evan Grifka started July 2, 2018, also working out of the Caro warehouse. His past experience had him working for contractors of DTE Energy and Consumers as a lineman. He has a significant other, Madeline, and two children, Henry and Penelope. Evan enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time, as well as spending time with his family.

We welcome Jennifer, Jason, and Evan to the team at Thumb Electric.



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.

Thumb Electric Director News

Due to family considerations, recently elected Board of Director Kevin Grifka resigned his position on June 18. Per TEC bylaws and policy, a search and selection committee was formed to fill the vacant position in Huron County District 2. Three potential candidates were interviewed. At the August 21 board meeting, the committee recommended to appoint Don Wolschleger to fill the director vacancy. The board unanimously voted to support the recommendation. Don will officially be seated at the September board meeting. Also per TEC bylaws and policy, this position will be subject to vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting to determine who will serve the remaining two years of the Huron County District 2 term.

System Upgrades

Thumb Electric contractors will continue upgrading and rebuilding the 41.6KV transmission line between Ubly and Kinde this fall. The section between Kinde and Richardson road has been completed and operational, so the concentration is expected to be along M19 from M142 to Ubly, as well as removal of the old lines and poles from the deep right-of-way. Crews will also continue with the single phase rebuild projects. Work has already started along Minden road between Purdy and Leppek in Paris Township. Purdy road between Parisville and Minden are on schedule to be completed by early fall. These efforts help to ensure the system is as reliable as possible when Mother Nature throws us her best.

Several Payment Options Available

Thumb Electric offers members several options when it comes to making payments and turning in meter readings. You may choose the same method used for nearly 80 years at the co-op, by simply sending in the payment with the provided stub along with the reading. Or, you can make payment over your computer or smartphone and turn in your meter reading at the same time. We even have a cash payment option through MoneyGram offered at such locations as Walmart or CVS Pharmacies. The convenience of the Smartphone app option (SmartHub) means users can immediately report power outages from the app on their phone without having to make a call. For more information, please visit our website at tecmi.coop.

Appliance Recycling

Appliance recycling continues as we hit the end of summer and head into fall. We anticipate through our contracting partner, SEEL, that scheduling will be conducted until approximately November 15, 2018, and then is slated to pick up again around April 1, 2019. They will pick up an old working refrigerator or freezer, and TEC will credit your account \$50. If they have scheduled to pick up a refrigerator or freezer, they will also schedule to pick up a dehumidifier or a window AC unit you wish to recycle. Those are worth a \$20 bill credit. Call 844-631-2130 to schedule your pick up today!



Tree Trimming Efforts Ongoing

Tree trimming continues at an aggressive pace in 2018, resulting in TEC members seeing their reliability greatly improve. Removing and trimming trees make for fewer outages and shorter duration of outages that do occur because of these efforts. Priorities will continue for line sections that are historically problematic lines, followed by overgrown sections. As time allows, less severe circuits will be maintained.

Members in Vassar, Dayton (especially Shay Lake area), Juniata and Indianfield Townships will see crews as part of regular system maintenance, and we also anticipate starting to work on circuits in Kingston, Koylton, Lamotte, and Marlette Townships.

Due to a disease in the Ash tree, which is a very popular species of tree in our service territory, we have had to adjust our trimming locations. It has made planning a challenge at times, but we make every effort to contact members ahead of the trimmers. We will send out a postcard to members to let them know trimmers will be in the area, and, at times, we will try and call members to let them know the plan for their area. If you have an updated phone number, please call us with your new contact information.

Important Seasonal Member Information

As required by the Michigan Public Service Commission, Thumb Electric Co-op recently has done or will do a meter reading for seasonal members who receive electric service under Rate Class 2 and have a \$22.50 monthly service charge.

Billing for most seasonal member consumption during the past 12 months will occur on Oct. 3.

Each month, nearly 200 seasonal members report their meter readings and the dates they are read. They make monthly payments for electricity consumed, in addition to the monthly service charge, to avoid receiving the annual bill.

Seasonal members are encouraged to read their meters and include the reading date whenever possible, to reduce the potential for electrical problems and billing concerns.



THUMB ELECTRIC MEMBERS *Celebrate Milestones*

Over the past year, we have had the privilege of presenting four Thumb Electric Cooperative members with recognition from the Historical Society of Michigan through their Centennial Farm Program.

Since 1948, the program has recognized more than 6,000 farms for ownership in the same family for more than 100 years. Farms can currently qualify in one of two categories: the noted Centennial Farm, and a Sesquicentennial Farm, which means a farm has been in a family for over 150 years.

All of us at Thumb Electric congratulate these family farms for their longevity and wish them many more years in the farm industry.

If you are interested in applying for farm certification, please contact us. Applications are available at our Ubyly office, from the Michigan Centennial Farm Program at 517-324-1828, or visit centennialfarms.org.

Thumb Electric members that were recognized in the past year included:

Centennial Farm Certified

Centennial Farm Name: Leonard Briolat Farm

Certification Date: 2/13/2018

Founding Date: 12/30/1916

Current Owner: Gary Briolat, Lynn Talaski, Sherry Mixter, Judy Booms, Kenneth Briolat, Jeffrey Briolat, and Dennis Briolat

Farm Location: Stambaugh Rd., Ubyly in Bingham Township

Centennial Farm Certified

Centennial Farm Name: Bennett Gruber and Marian Peters Gruber Farm

Certification Date: 9/26/2017

Founding Date: 5/27/1887

Current Owner: Don and Marcella Vatter

Farm Location: Cass City Rd., Ubyly in Austin Township

Centennial Farm Certified

Centennial Farm Name: John, II and Ernestine Sting Farm

Certification Date: 4/20/2018

Founding Date: 1/20/1905

Current Owner: Thomas and Janice Sting

Farm Location: Huron Line Rd., Sebawaing in Sebawaing Township

Centennial Farm Certified

Centennial Farm Name: Martin and Fredericka Rink Farm

Certification Date: 11/9/2017

Founding Date: 3/31/1916

Current Owner: Marvin and Carol Woodke/Gregory and Cathy Woodke

Farm Location: N. Minden Rd., Port Hope in Bloomfield Township



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.



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.

Notice to Members of Thumb Electric Cooperative

Case No. U-17801 2017 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary

Michigan law (MPSC) 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, Thumb Electric Cooperative submits an Annual Report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2017, Thumb acquired a total of 15,456 renewable energy credits and 1,504 incentive credits. All credit transfers were directed through Thumb's wholesale power supplier, CMS Energy. CMS Energy 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.

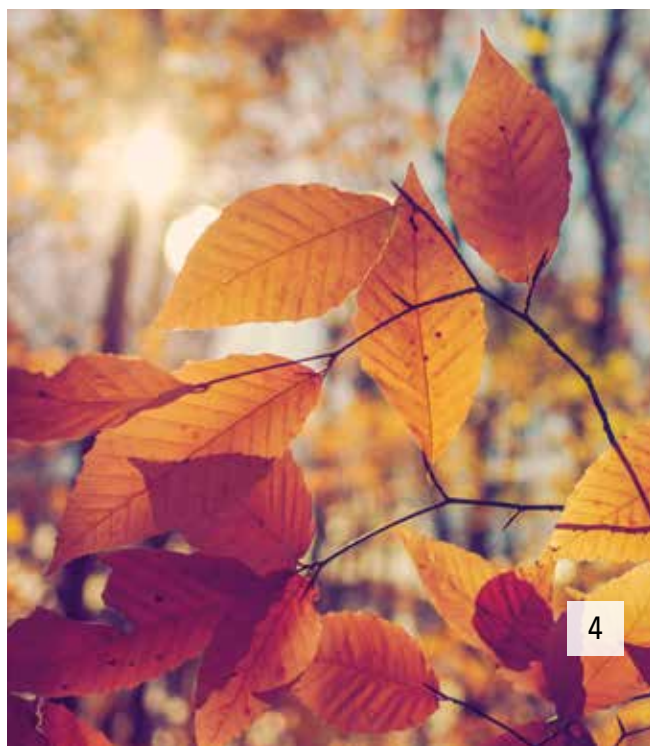
A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at tecmi.coop or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.



Photo Contest

Fall Colors

1. "Murphy" blends into the fall colors at the cabin. *By Kathy Sabel*
2. Fall colors at Dana Lake in Delta County. *By Sandy Smiley*
3. Fall serenity. *By Annette Decker*
4. Sunshine through the leaves on a crisp fall morning. *By James Gonyea*



Share Your Photos!

Thumb Electric invites members to share their photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are:

- **Celebrations due September 20** for the Nov/Dec issue

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

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

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*



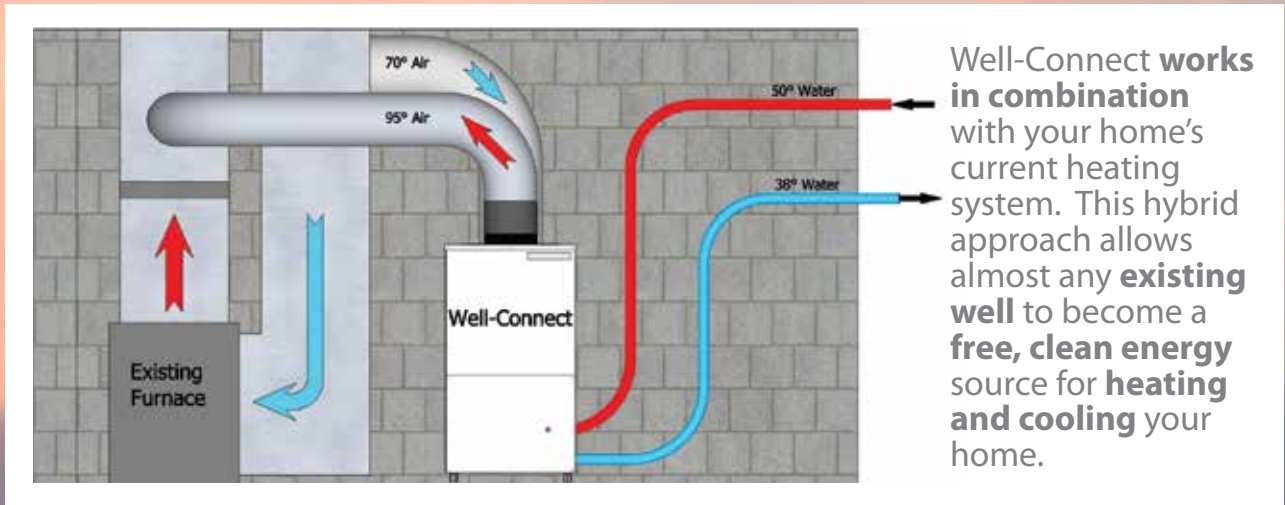
Best of Michigan

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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23rd Annual

Thumb Octagon Barn FALL FAMILY DAYS

Featuring our theme for 2018:

**The Thumb:
Naturally Sweet!**



Saturday and Sunday, September 8 & 9

Fish Fry Dinner

Friday, Sept. 7, 4–7 p.m.

Gate Admission

\$5.00 (Age 6 and older)

Farmer's Breakfast

Saturday, Sept 8, 8–10 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 9, 8–11 a.m.

Hours

Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

For more information, please visit thumboctagonbarn.org or call 989-665-0081.
The barn is located just outside of Gagetown at 6948 Richie Road.