



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2017

Media Contact:

Debbie Armstrong: 815-756-1336 darmstrong@dekalbcountycvb.com

PHOTO ATTACHED - Nick Nagle, Jamie Walter, and Jim Walter

**SHORELINE SIGHTSEEING "ILLINOIS MADE" CRUISE FEATURING DEKALB'S
WHISKEY ACRES DISTILLING CO. SET FOR AUGUST 4**

New Cruise in Partnership with Illinois Office of Tourism will feature Food and Beverages from Illinois artisans

DeKalb, IL: The DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce that Whiskey Acres Distilling Co. is part of the inaugural "Illinois Made" Chicago Shoreline Cruise. The "Illinois Made Cruise" is part of the already impressive cruise offerings by Chicago's Shoreline Sightseeing.

Shoreline Sightseeing will host the first of-its-kind "Illinois Made Cruise" featuring food and beverages from "Illinois Made" artisans. Shoreline is partnering with the Illinois Office of Tourism for this new cruise. The first cruise will set sail on Friday, August 4. "Illinois Made," launched in July 2016, is an ongoing program that recognizes the artisans, products, and experiences that are unique to Illinois.

The August cruise will feature Whiskey Acres Distilling Co. of DeKalb, IL, named an Illinois Made artisan in August 2016. Whiskey Acres Seed to Spirit bourbon, rye and vodka will be showcased in samples during the August 4th Illinois Made Cruise. Chicago musician Owen Stevenson will entertain for the evening.

"We control the entire whiskey-making process from the seed we put into the ground to the spirit that we put into the bottle", said Nick Nagele, Whiskey Acres co-founder. "Growing the grain used to make whiskey is the epitome of artisan – and the IL Made Program is a great partner to showcase our story and products."

The cruise will feature samplings from additional Illinois Made food and beverage artisans. Both events will include a 90-minute Shoreline cruise on the Chicago River offering spectacular views and excellent photo opportunities of Chicago's brilliantly lit nighttime skyline.

"We are looking forward to hosting the inaugural Illinois Made Cruises highlighting the superb food and beverage artisans of our state," said Amy Hartnett, Director of Sales and Marketing for Shoreline

Sightseeing. "It's a perfect opportunity for Chicagoans and visitors to experience the creativity of some of our Illinois culinary and beverage stars."

"We are excited to partner with Shoreline Sightseeing to feature our amazing Illinois Made artisans who create exceptional products using Illinois ingredients. Illinois is home to world-class craft breweries, wineries, and distilleries that offer travelers, near and far, authentic, out of the ordinary experiences," said Cory Jobe, Director of the Illinois Office of Tourism.

"We are proud to have two 'Illinois Made Makers,' Whiskey Acres and Jonamac Orchard, in DeKalb County. It's a great honor to have Whiskey Acres be part of this new partnership between Illinois Office of Tourism and Shoreline Sightseeing. We appreciate that the Illinois Office of Tourism is continually providing new partnership opportunities to keep our attractions top of mind for visitors," said Debbie Armstrong, Executive Director of the DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Illinois Made Cruises will depart from Shoreline's dock at Polk Bros Park at the southwest corner of Navy Pier at 8:00 p.m., returning at 9:30 p.m. Boarding will begin 15 minutes prior to departure. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets for Shoreline's Illinois Made Cruises are \$49.00 per person. Please note; must be 21 to go on these cruises. Information at <http://shorelinesightseeing.com/special-events/> or call 312-222-9328. About Shoreline Sightseeing; Now celebrating its 78th season on Chicago's waterways, Shoreline Sightseeing operates Chicago's largest and most diverse fleet of cruise boats and water taxis. Shoreline offers Architecture River Tours, Classic Lake Tours, Fireworks Tours, Water Taxis and a season-long series of special event cruises. Brothers Chip and Matt Collopy are third-generation owners of Shoreline Sightseeing.

About Illinois Made; Illinois Made recognizes the artisans, products, and experiences that are unique to the state. Launched in 2016, the program inspires travel across Illinois and encourages people to extend their travel beyond a day trip by exploring the local businesses and great attractions around the state. To learn more about Illinois Made and to view the latest video content and featured makers, visit www.EnjoyIllinois.com/Illinoismade.

About Whiskey Acres Distilling Co.; Established in 2014 and run by 5th generation father-son farmers Jim and Jamie Walter and their partner Nick Nagle, Whiskey Acres is the only certified estate distillery in Illinois, using only grain grown on their family farm to make their bold spirits. Located in DeKalb, IL, Whiskey Acres is open to the public Friday through Sunday, mid-March through November.

###

