

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

National Gardening Day – Call 811 Before You Dig

National Gardening Day will be celebrated on April 14 and is the perfect time for gardeners and would-be gardeners to pick up a shovel and some seeds and kick-off a beautiful year of homegrown bounty.

Whether you want to grow vegetables, fruit, flowers, houseplants, or anything in between, National Gardening Day celebrates a satisfying pastime that you will enjoy for decades. Growing your own food also lets you provide fresh and natural nourishment for your family for a fraction of grocery store prices.

National Gardening Day is a call to action to get out and grow flower or vegetable gardens regardless of whether you plant in the ground, in containers, in straw bales or a square foot gardening box.

HOW TO OBSERVE

There are many ways that you can observe National Gardening Day including:

- Find the right book, guide or resource for your needs at your local library.
- Sign up for a gardening course in your area.
- Look for a community garden in your area.
- Organize a seed and perennial plant swap with neighbors and friends.
- Visit your local nursery or garden center—you will be amazed by all the beautiful options.

SAFETY FIRST

- **IT'S FREE-** Contacting Diggers Hotline before you begin your project, to have buried lines at your job site located, is free. If you damage a buried line, without a call to Diggers Hotline, you will be financially responsible for the damages and you could be fined as well.



- **IT'S EASY-** You can call Diggers Hotline simply by dialing 811 or you can submit a request through the email online. Call Center Representatives are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- **IT'S THE LAW-** Wisconsin Statute §182.0175 requires all excavators, including homeowners and construction contractors, to contact Diggers Hotline at least three working days before any work is done that disturbs the soil in any way.



**April
13**

**SREC Annual Meeting is
Saturday, April 13
at the Youth & Ag Building in
Lancaster (916 East Elm St.)**

**Doors open at 9 a.m.
Business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.**

- Election for directors in Districts 2, 6, and 7.
- Eligible students can enter drawing for college scholarships

Deadline to apply is April 8.

- Lunch will be served following the business meeting





Youth Leadership Congress

UW–River Falls | July 24–26, 2019



The annual **WECA Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**.

Take the opportunity to...

- See **what makes the cooperative business model different and successful**, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with industry professionals.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.

This is a **by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference** that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Who should apply?

- High school students with a parent or grandparent who is a member of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.
- Students active in their school and community.

What does it cost?

- All registration costs are covered by Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.
- Visit our website - www.sre.coop to complete and return an application today.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2019

continued. . . National Gardening Day

Contacting Diggers Hotline will not get private facilities marked. Examples of private facilities include an electric line to a detached garage or lamp, underground sprinkler systems, security systems, sewer or water laterals and walkway lights connected by underground cables. These are facilities that are owned by the person who owns the property and will not be marked by locators working for the utilities. To get private facilities marked you can contact a locating company.

Diggers Hotline coordinates between excavators (such as a homeowner) and the owners of buried lines. It's up to the owners of the lines to mark the locations near your job site with paint and/or flags. Private lines, such as an electric line to a detached garage or other out-building or a line from a propane tank that may be on your property, are considered the responsibility of the landowner.

So, get out and dig a garden this year – just remember to be safe and call 811! ■

April Fools don't be fooled by common energy myths

Eating carrots will greatly improve your eyesight, cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis, watching too much TV will harm your vision. We've all heard the old wives' tales, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths.

Myth: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool).

Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true.

Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months.

Myth: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check the progress of a dish, try using the oven light instead.

Myth: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

Believe it or not, many people think this is true. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans circulate room air but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Many consumers believe that reducing energy use requires expensive up-front costs, like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or construction upgrades to an older home. But the truth is, consumers who make small changes to their energy efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption.

Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. Focus on small changes to save big. ■



2019 Member Photo Contest

"Rural Wisconsin"

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2020 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area and should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, etc.).

Photos must be submitted via email to jmartin@srec.net.

For a complete list of rules and criteria as well as downloadable forms, visit our website, www.sre.coop. Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we will email a copy to you.



SmartHub - the new FREE online payment system!

- Pay your bill
- View billing history
- Monitor usage
- Go paperless
- Set up recurring payments
- Communicate directly with the co-op
- And, more!

**Thank a Lineman,
April 8 is Lineman's Day**

**GEARED FOR
SAFETY**

Electric co-op lineworkers wear special gear to help them stay safe on the job. Can you match the descriptions below to the correct safety equipment? Use the answer key to check your work!



1. These provide extra protection while lineworkers work with heavy materials that could fall near their feet.

2. This material keeps lineworkers safe from electrical hazards.

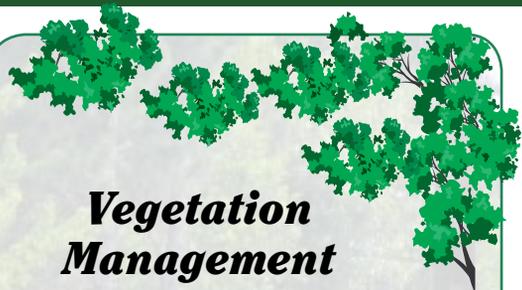
3. This protects lineworkers from head injuries and falling debris.

4. These insulated protectors keep lineworkers safe from electrical shock while working on power lines.

5. These keep debris away from lineworkers' eyes while on the job.

6. This is a handy piece of safety gear that holds tools and other equipment.

ANSWERS: 1. Work Boots 2. Flame-Resistant Clothing 3. Hard Hat 4. Insulated Gloves 5. Safety Goggles 6. Equipment Belt



**Vegetation
Management**

Zielie's Tree Service will continue trimming on the Gays Mills Substation north circuit the month of April. Zielie's and SREC Representative's will continue to permit on the Gays Mills Substation west circuit.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141 ext. 566.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative has contracted Badgerland Utility Solutions LLC to inspect underground transformers and cabinets in ALL townships in Crawford County. They will be starting in southern Crawford County and working their way north. Please keep in mind you may **NOT** have equipment on your property affected by this work. If you have a locked gate please call our office to make arrangements to get into the property.



Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

Steve Lucas CEO

Our board of directors consists of Chuck Simmons, Don Schaefer, Sandra Davidson, Ellen Conley, Jack Larson, Larry Butson, Delbert Reuter, Steve Carpenter and Marcus Saegrove.

