



Steve Lucas, CEO

CAPITAL CREDITS

Another example of the Co-op Difference

I want to thank everyone who attended one of our Member Appreciation Celebrations held last month. Our members are very important to us here at Scenic Rivers

Energy Cooperative (SREC), and we all look forward to this annual opportunity to visit with you and celebrate October Co-op Month together. We hope you enjoyed a great meal and good conversation, and perhaps even won a door prize.

Co-op Month may be over for another year, but our recognition of the cooperative difference continues as we work to fulfill the third co-op principle—Members' Economic Participation. This is just one of seven principles that all co-op businesses adhere to, and it provides for one of the most visible differences between co-ops and other forms of business.

As a member of a cooperative, you are much more than a customer. You are a part owner. You and all your fellow members contribute equitably to the capital of your cooperative. This means you and your fellow members also share equitably in any revenues beyond what is needed to maintain the co-op's financial stability.

These revenues are returned to members in proportion to their usage of the co-op's services through capital credit allocations. Capital credits represent each member's share of the cooperative's margins and ownership of the co-op.

Each co-op establishes its own cycle for retiring capital credits, and each co-op board determines the basis for how much is to be retired and exactly how that retirement is to be carried out.

At SREC, we distribute capital credit retirements in

October as a bill credit to all active members. Inactive members receive a check in the mail. If the amount is less than \$10, we carry it over to the following year until the refund is at least \$10. This method helps us hold down the cost of printing and mailing all those checks each year.

However, there are always some capital credits that we have trouble distributing. Some people move off the lines without leaving a forwarding address, and other members pass away and leave no information as to who their heirs are.

We do our very best to find these people and see to it that they receive the capital credits they have earned, but we need your help. Once the capital credit refunds have

been distributed, we publicize the names of all members and former members for whom we have no address. You can find this list of names on our website, www.sre.coop, by following the Capital Credits tab.

As a member of a cooperative, you are much more than a customer. You are a part owner.

Please take a moment to review this list. If you see any familiar names there and you know how to locate any of these people or their heirs, please call our office at 800-236-2141.

If we cannot find these individuals or their heirs, we turn over their unclaimed capital credits to the Federated Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organization that distributes these monies for educational purposes. This is how we fund the scholarships we give away to member high school graduates each spring.

It's just another example of co-op difference.

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo from SREC's first-ever Member Photo Contest for November is from Neil Kirschbaum, Glen Haven.

Our 2017 calendar, featuring winning photos from this year's contest (*2016 winners are listed on page 18*), is available at any of SREC's offices, in Lancaster, Gays Mills, and Darlington. Pick yours up while supplies last.

And keep snapping! Photos taken now can be submitted in next year's Member Photo Contest.





Gratiot House Farm Bed & Breakfast

One of Wisconsin's oldest homes is restored to 1830s splendor

The Gratiot House has come full circle. Built in 1835 by Col. Henry Gratiot, the two-story limestone home is one of the oldest houses in Wisconsin, standing in what was one of the state's first settlements, Gratiot's Grove, in a once-booming lead-mining area.

This historic building has endured years of wear and tear, ownership changes, and periods of neglect to re-emerge as it appeared in its 1800s heyday. That's thanks to owners Chris and Heather Price, who launched a painstaking restoration effort after purchasing the property in 2010. After six years of rebuilding and restoring the property, located on Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative lines, the Prices opened the Gratiot House as a bed-and-breakfast this past May to a most fitting first customer—a descendant of Henry Gratiot himself.

Not all guests are so historically connected, of course, but all experience history when they stay here. With open prairie and farmland buffering the house from the sights and sounds of a fast-paced life beyond, a step inside the front door feels like a step back in time. Some modern amenities have been added, such as cozy bathrooms in each guest bedroom; how-

ever, rooms have been rebuilt to resemble their 1830s form. All of the home's wood is the original pine, covered with linseed-oil paint to retain its aged patina. A peek through antique poured-glass windows reveals a flourishing kitchen garden, fruit trees, bee hives, and some colorful hens wandering about the yard, all sources of the organic, home-cooked breakfasts served in the dining room. Furnishings are either antiques or replicas of period pieces. When the natural light from the large windows isn't enough, candle lamps on the windowsills provide additional light with an authentic feel.

"With everything we did, we were trying to take the house back to as early as possible," Heather said.

The bed-and-breakfast is open from May through October. However, those who can't wait until spring to see this historic home may do so this month, as the Gratiot House will be one of the featured stops on the Shullsburg Tour of Homes November 26, offering an old-fashioned Christmas experience as part of the community's A Bit of Yesteryear Christmas celebration.

"We're going to dress up in period costumes and have everything really festive, with food and beverages," Heather said. "It will be an 1850s look—no plastic Christmas trees with blinking lights."

Project with a Past The Prices have researched the house's past extensively, although Chris said they're still piecing the story together. However, a love of history is not what originally brought the couple to the property.

"It was the airport," Chris admitted. A pilot who restores old planes, Chris used to fly to a small privately owned airport located just beyond the house.

"I always liked the old airport," he explained. "I lived in Brodhead and I'd fly over here. That was in about 2005. I'd fly over and I could see this big old, junky building."

Heather also nurtured an appreciation for historic dwellings; she grew up on a farm in West Bend with parents who had once restored an old log home from the 1800s.

"That's really what I was looking for—a project, something with history, something with a fascinating past that we could make a home out of," she said.

Both she and Chris were also interested in having a home they could share with others. Heather was also inspired by a



Among the animals that roam at the farm are Hester and Pearl, a pair of shetland sheep, and 13 hens.



1. The Gratiot House. 2. Bathrooms added to each guest bedroom were built with an old-fashioned feel. This shower, built in a former closet in the Gratiot Suite, has a river stone basin and mahogany wood shower panels.
3. Guest bedrooms are named for the original owners; this one is the Hempstead Suite, named for Susan Hempstead Gratiot.
4. An organic, home-cooked breakfast is served each morning in the dining room.

friend who had turned a 1910 stone building near Cedarburg into a unique bed and breakfast, filled with artwork and an eclectic collection of items she'd gathered from a lifetime of traveling. As a bed-and-breakfast owner, she also collected relationships with the many interesting people who stayed there.

"If we just had our house, it would just be us," Chris said. "But if you can do a bed and breakfast, we learned from Heather's friend that you meet so many fun people. We love the people aspect, and the house just boded so well for that."

House History Henry Gratiot began construction of the house in 1835, when the area was still part of the Michigan Territory, although he didn't spend much time there. A leader in business and politics, Gratiot traveled to Washington, D.C., in 1836 to report to President Andrew Jackson about the "sad and deplorable" living conditions of the area's Native Americans. He died on the return trip.

His widow, Susan, lived in the home and likely oversaw much of the construction and subsequent additions, Chris said. Her 1848 will provides record of her leaving the house to her son, Edward, and the home remained in the Gratiot family until 1860. An account of a fire at the house in an 1850 newspaper article provided additional details that helped Chris document some of the home's various additions.

Over time, the house went through multiple owners and caretakers. The east side was even used as a corn crib for a few years until 1970, when it underwent a renovation and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

However, the home had fallen into disrepair again when the Prices saw its potential. Doing much of the work them-

selves, Chris and Heather replaced the roof; rebuilt each of the 29 windows, many with authentic poured or rolled glass; and filled in the limestone walls with rock from a nearby 1853 stone home. Chris rebuilt three doors the way it was done in the 1800s, with no glue, using two original doors that were left upstairs as a pattern. He also restructured the staircase back to its original appearance.

Quite & Comfort Through the early part of the project, the Prices set up camp on the property until their private quarters on the east side of the house were habitable. Along the way, they had a son, Duncan, now 5.

As they built up the house, the Prices built up the farm and surrounding property as well, planting native prairie grasses and adding two playful Shetland sheep, Hester and Pearl.

Visitors have full access to the grounds as well as a parlor, dining room, and an upstairs bedroom with its own bathroom. The bed and breakfast side of the house has its own entrance, so guests have complete privacy. The absence of TVs and other electronic entertainment make for a quiet, rejuvenating stay. If they need a relaxation boost, visitors can even book a massage with Heather, a licensed massage therapist.

That's one perk Henry and Susan Gratiot likely wouldn't recognize if they could return to their former home now. The rest would all be familiar.—*Mary Erickson*

To learn more about the Gratiot House Farm Bed & Breakfast, visit gratiothousefarm.com or call 414-303-4374. To learn more about A Bit of Yesteryear Christmas, visit facebook.com/ShullsburgCDC.



CONGRATULATIONS, 2017 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

Congratulations to the winners of our 2016 Member Photo Contest! Their photographs capturing the scenic beauty of rural southwest Wisconsin are featured in the 2017 Member Calendar, available now at each of SREC's three offices. Pick one up while supplies last!

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| January | Nancy Pagenkopf |
| February | John Dalsing |
| March | Michael Bradly |
| April | Michael Momot |
| May | Debra A. Gates |
| June | Dick and Rhonda Wiedenbeck |
| July | Jeff Kopsell |
| August | Jamee Stanley |
| September | Michael Bradley |
| October | Dennis Ball |
| November | Sherry Kane Johnsrud |
| December | Tom Jones |

Honorable mentions:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Jeff Kopsell | Nancy Bierman |
| Karan Hlavacek | Deb Luther |
| Siri Walby | Michael Bradley |

FORMER SREC DIRECTOR MULROONEY PASSES



Leonard Mulrooney, who served as a co-op director in three different decades and helped lead through two mergers that ultimately created Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, died Saturday, September 16, at a care facility in Lancaster, aged 87.

Mulrooney was first elected in 1984 as a director of then-Grant Electric Cooperative, which merged in 1990 with Lafayette Electric Cooperative to form Grant-Lafayette Electric. In 1999, Grant-Lafayette merged with Crawford Electric to form Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative. Mulrooney continued on the board throughout, serving until 2003.

During his 19-year tenure, Mulrooney held the position of assistant secretary-treasurer from 1993 through '96, secretary-treasurer from 1997 through '99, and assistant secretary-treasurer again from 2000 through 2002. He also served a number of years as chairman of the Town of Mount Hope, where he farmed throughout his life.

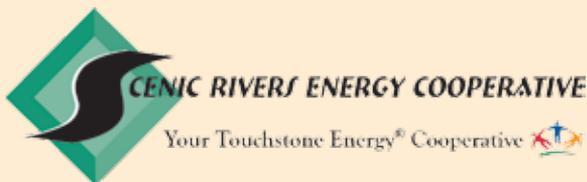
Mulrooney is survived by Marcella, his wife of 64 years, seven adult children, 16 grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BE TESTED

Members who participate in SREC's dual fuel, off-peak heating program will experience a test of the load management system on Wednesday, November 16. On this day, the electric load on your dual fuel panel will be interrupted for four to six hours starting at 5 p.m. Restoral will begin at 9 p.m., with all power restored by 10:30 p.m.

This test is designed to provide you with the opportunity to observe your control device (*pictured at right*) to ensure that the indicator lights on your load-control receiver function properly, and to check that your heating system and/or back-up heating system is working properly before winter sets in.

Please check to see that your heating system is working properly during the test. If you notice any problems with our load management receiver, contact the cooperative. If you have any questions regarding this test, call SREC, 800-236-2141.



SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

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