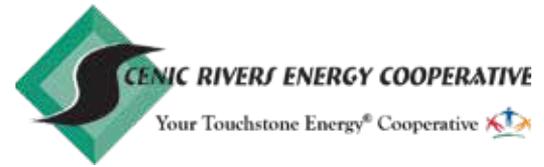




Steve Lucas, CEO

# SMARTHUB HELPS YOU MANAGE YOUR ENERGY BILLS



At Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, we're always looking for ways we can serve you better. About a year ago we began offering SmartHub, a free, online, account-management service available

to all members. SmartHub provides you with a convenient, easy, and secure way to pay your energy bills, all from the convenience of your smartphone, tablet, or computer. You can arrange to have your bill paid automatically each month from your bank account or credit card, eliminating any worry about due dates and late fees.

However, this service is about much more than providing an easy way to pay your bills. SmartHub puts you in control of your energy usage by allowing you to view your billing



history and track your energy usage by the year, the month, the week, and even the day. This gives you an idea of what your usage patterns are—

whether by season or day to day—which in turn can help you identify times and places where a lifestyle adjustment

could make a difference. You can even monitor your unbilled usage (energy you're currently using).

SmartHub offers a number of other conveniences as well. You can sign up for email alerts concerning your bills, payments, and usage. You can also send messages directly to SREC through SmartHub. Want to visit an office in person? SmartHub has a map showing all three office locations. You can also choose to go paperless and simply view your bill online rather than receive a paper statement in the mail.

I encourage all members with a smartphone, tablet, or computer to sign up for SmartHub, especially now, as the cold weather sets in and we begin another season of heating bills. Having the kind of awareness of your energy usage that SmartHub enables is the first step in identifying ways you can lower your energy bills.

Setting up a SmartHub account is easy—visit our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop), click on the SmartHub logo under Links, and follow the directions. For mobile access, download the free application in the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace.

## Energy Assistance

You might be surprised at the difference a small lifestyle change can make in your energy bill.

For example, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save 10 percent on your utility bill just by installing—and, of course, using—a programmable thermostat. Other steps are even easier and require no money and little to no

effort. Washing your clothes in cold water whenever possible; air-drying the dishes in your dishwasher; and cooking strategically with low-use appliances like microwaves, toaster ovens, and slow cookers will all help you save energy and lower your costs.

If, however, you've taken all the steps you can to save energy and you still have trouble managing your heating bills, there is help available to qualifying members through the Wisconsin Home Energy

Assistance Program (WHEAP). WHEAP heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating seasons that's intended to help pay a portion of a household's heat and electric costs. Income guidelines are shown in the chart at right.

For more information and application details, please call your local office:

- Crawford County Human Services Department: (608) 326-0248
- Grant County Department of Social Services: (608) 723-2136
- Lafayette County Human Services: (608) 776-4902

### WHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2018–2019 Heating Season

Household Size	3 Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$6,870.00	\$27,480.00
2	\$8,983.75	\$35,935.00
3	\$11,097.75	\$44,391.00
4	\$13,211.50	\$52,846.00
5	\$15,325.25	\$61,301.00
6	\$17,439.25	\$69,757.00
7	\$17,835.50	\$71,342.00
8	\$18,231.75	\$72,927.00

MY CO-OP



## MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning picture for November in SREC's Member Photo Contest was taken by Anna Robbins of Benton. The 2019 SREC member calendars, featuring winning photos from the 2018 Member Photo Contest, are now available. You can pick one up at any SREC office while supplies last.



# Fire and air

## Father-son blacksmith team create tools and steel art the old-fashioned way

Down a remote gravel lane in the Crawford County hills, father and son go at it hammer and tongs.

They made the tongs themselves. Dan Tesar and his son, Dan Tesar, Jr., called Danny, each have a forge and anvil, a few feet away from each other.

They make horseshoes, and also put the shoes on horses. They make tools. And they make small, decorative but useful items that they are hesitant to call art.

“The way I shoe horses is old-fashioned. I make every horseshoe. I always have. I make the tools used in making horseshoes. It works better that way,” Dan Tesar said.

He’s been a farrier and blacksmith for 20 years. “The two go hand in hand,”

said Tesar, of rural Wauzeka.

Sometimes if he’s stuck on an aspect shaping steel for a project, he works on an ornamental piece that is related to the roadblock. “If you get proficient at that, it works for both,” he said. “When you let your imagination run, it’s amazing what you can shape. Not a lot, but a few of the artistic pieces I use as a skill builder.”

His son, Danny, 19, works with him. The two collaborate on much of the work, from idea to fruition.

“I started riding in the pickup with him when I was 5 years old. It was like daycare. I started handing him tools. I started trimming horses at 14 or 15 years old and also kind of started blacksmithing, too,” Danny said.

Danny Tesar (left) and his father, Dan Tesar, stand in their blacksmith shop in rural Wauzeka, Wisconsin.

“It’s actually really practical to build your own tools,” Danny said. “You can tailor it to your own needs.”

You know exactly what’s in the tool if you make it yourself, Dan said. Sometimes they repurpose old tools or coils to make their tools, heating steel in the forge and reshaping it.

“It’s good steel. It serves our purpose very well,” Dan said.

“I guess I’ve been fortunate. I’ve always been able to make a living doing what I want to do,” Dan said. Sometimes he’s worked seasonal or temporary jobs “just to make ends meet,” but working with steel has been his mainstay.

Their art is on display and for sale at the Left Bank Gallery in McGregor, Iowa.

They had to build an inventory for the art gallery because most of their work had been custom. They traveled to craft shows and found that helpful in determining what people wanted to buy.

They make a wide selection of hooks and handles, tea light trays, candle holders, trivets, and other household items.

“A hook is cheap. It’s functional, it fits in a purse, and it’s not going to break the bank. A lot of my art—I guess if you could call it art—is functional. I like to make something that looks nice, but I don’t want to just look at it. I want it to do something for me,” Dan said.

He is working on a wine bottle holder with grape leaves and a cork screw that looks like a tendril. But not all wine bottles are the same width. The cork screw is made from a garage door spring.

They find some steel “just junkin’,” Dan said. “I use just about every square inch.”

Sometimes he will go through his coffee can of steel scraps and figure out what to make from the small pieces. He made a bell out of a length of 2-inch pipe.

“It’s kind of time-consuming, but it’s fun. You can really see what you’re trying to accomplish,” Dan said. “It’s like drawing, only with steel.”

From the same amount of steel, a completely different object emerges.

“The opportunities are endless,” Danny said. “You can do anything you want.”

He found an old pitted chisel in the ground, and made a center punch for himself. “It’s a little ugly, but it works,” he said. “I like to make little tools. I’ve got a whole list of tools I want to make.”

Family members told Danny it’s a good idea to learn a trade, and he agreed. He is also attending Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore, studying agricultural mechanics.

He coaxed a spinach leaf from steel and fashioned it into a key chain, because he was tired of digging through his pockets to find his keys.

They also hand-forge knives.

Sometimes it’s trial and error, and it doesn’t always work out. But there are gains in skills and knowledge.

Horses need hooves trimmed every six to eight weeks (“It’s just like a haircut,” Dan said) and the Tesars have long-standing clients that they put on their calendar.

“You use your body as a tool (as a farrier), but it’s not brute force that gets those things on,” he said. “It’s grey matter.”

When he makes a therapeutic shoe for a horse, “time and money just kind of

wash away. When I get that done, I get satisfaction out of watching that animal walk a little better,” Dan said.

Dan has a bachelor’s degree in animal science. “I originally intended to become a veterinarian. I decided to go to horseshoe school. I’ve never been sorry. It opened up all kinds of doors for me,” he said.

They buy some steel at Zabel Equip-

ment in Eastman, and at Wolf Machine in Prairie du Chien.

People think their blacksmith shop would be elaborate, but it is a lot like blacksmith shops have always been. They use coal or gas to heat the steel, then pound it out with a hammer on an anvil. They use fans to handle the heat.

“Fire and air, that’s how you forge,” Dan said. ■



Danny Tesar (left) and his father, Dan Tesar, show some of the hooks, handles, and other ornamental objects they forged in their blacksmith shop in rural Wauzeka. They also make tools and horseshoes, and are farriers in addition to being blacksmiths.



*It's not too early  
to start thinking about  
holiday shopping!*

If you have a hard-to-buy-for person on your holiday gift list, consider giving a Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative gift certificate. It's thoughtful, practical, convenient, and always the right size and style!

*To purchase the Gift of Power,  
contact SREC at 608-723-2121  
or 800-236-2141.*



## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the members who submitted winning photos in SREC's 2018 Member Photo Contest! Their photos appear in our 2019 Member Calendars, available at all three of our offices:

Lancaster, Darlington, and Gays Mills. Pick up your calendar while supplies last!



**January** – Everett Thoreson, South Wayne

**February** – Michael Momot, Platteville

**March** – Gary Cohen, Blanchardville

**April** – Ana Ramaker, New Holstein

**May** – Tom Jones, Boscobel

**June** – Jemma Holden, Lancaster

**July** – Karen Hlavacek, Argyle

**August** – Farrah Grysbeck, Eastman

**September** – Karen Hlavacek, Argyle

**October** – Nathan Elderkin, Soldiers Grove

**November** – Michael Momot, Platteville

**December** – Jemma Holden, Lancaster

### Honorable Mention

Alan Lord, Town of Clayton

Anna Schultz, Gratiot

Michael Momot, Platteville

John J. Dalsing, Cuba City

Jamee Stanley, Soldiers Grove

Everett Thoreson, South Wayne

Linda and Ron Hanson, Argyle

Kelvin Baertschi, Argyle

Nancy Dowling, Gays Mills

Jean McDaniel, Boscobel

## LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TEST

Members who participate in SREC's dual fuel, off-peak heating program will experience a test of the load management system on Wednesday, November 14. 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 8:30 p.m., with all power restored by 10 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.

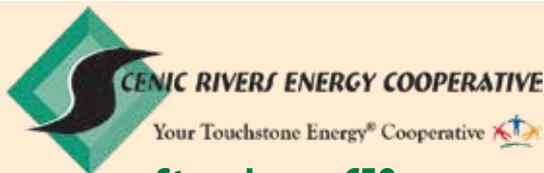


## SAVE WITH ENERGY REBATES

Are you planning to finish up a few home energy efficiency upgrades before the cold weather sets in? There's still time to take advantage of SREC's 2018 energy rebate program for qualified projects or purchases. Rebates are available for purchase of qualified Energy Star-rated appliances, installation of new heating and cooling systems, and energy-efficient lighting, to name a few.

Check our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop), for a full listing of available rebates and forms for applying.

Rebates are in place through December 31, 2018, or until funds, by incentive or in total, are depleted. If you have any questions, please call 800-236-2141, ext. 563.



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