

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

2017 SREC Calendars



At the Member Appreciations, we will be giving out a calendar to each member. Any remaining calendars will be distributed between each office location.

Thanks to all of our members that submitted pictures for our 2017 Photo Contest! We had a hard time choosing the pictures for our 2017 calendar. Also inside the calendar are pictures of honorable mention. We had a great response and plan to do this again next year! The contest will open again next spring. Like this year, we will be capturing the life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape). So please keep taking pictures!



Member Appreciation Celebrations

October 18th: Lancaster
231 North Sheridan Street

October 19th: Gays Mills
15985 State Hwy 131

October 20th: Darlington
300 Barth Drive

Each celebration will be held from 4 to 7 p.m.

Celebrations will feature:

- A dinner of Shredded Beef Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Cheese Curds and Frosted Brownies.
- Browse through displays to learn what kinds of services SREC offers.
- Learn how Focus on Energy can help you manage your energy costs.
- Bucket Truck Rides
- Door Prizes and Giveaways
- Blood Pressure checks and flu shots (if available)



Know what's below Dial 811 before you dig.

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging--such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts--remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the majority doesn't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.



Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.

CGA is a member-driven association of 1,500 individuals, organizations and sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. CGA has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders. ■

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. Learn more about ways to save energy by visiting www.sre.coop or calling 800-236-2141.



Cooking Efficiency Tip

Every time you open the oven door to check on a dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, increasing cooking time - and energy use! Try using the oven light instead.



Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■

Recipes

Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your Chocolate Cherry Cake recipe!

Chocolate Cherry Cake

- 1 (18 ounce) package chocolate cake mix
- 1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 (21 ounce) cherry pie filling
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 (12 ounce) package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

In a large bowl, combine the wet ingredients, (just use the liquid from the pie filling) and add water and oil to those ingredients. Then mix in dry cake mix. Beat for two minutes. Fold in cherries. Pour into 9 x



13 greased and floured cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 - 30 minutes. While cake is in the oven, combine sugar, brown sugar, butter and milk in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, then boil for 1 minute, stirring constantly, until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat and add chocolate chips and vanilla. Stir until chips are melted and frosting is smooth. Pour over warm cake and spread to cover. Cool on rack before serving.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



An average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Source: energy.gov

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will have a bucket truck finishing up the trimming on the west circuit of the Eastman Substation in Crawford County and all other crews will be on the north and south circuits of the Eastman Substation.

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.

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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*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

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