

December 2008

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## Season's Greetings - From your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

### ***Go Green (and stay out of the red) with LED holiday lights***

The spirit of the season is reflected in the cheer of bright holiday lights. Of course, saving money makes spirits even brighter, so make sure to use Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights on your tree this year. LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy and last seven times longer than conventional holiday lighting. Because they use so much less electricity, the cost of decorating with these holiday lights is a fraction of standard light strings.

Since LED lights are available in all different styles, sizes and colors, you can keep your tree twinkling in the style you like... while conserving energy and keeping your wallet "in the green" for holiday giving.

### ***Safety & the holiday season***

We hope you enjoy many peaceful moments at home enjoying your sparkling holiday tree. We also want to help make sure this season is a safe one for your family. Please take a few minutes to assess the electrical safety of your holiday items.

- If you are using lights stored from the previous year, thoroughly check the lights before decorating. Damaged electrical cords are a danger to your home and family.
- Don't overload outlets or extension cords.
- If you have a live Christmas tree, make sure it is well-watered.



### ***Stay warm & save money***

Contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative to ask about a conservation program called Load Management. The program works by briefly controlling certain electrical devices (such as a water heater or air conditioner) during periods of high demand, saving you money while maintaining the comfort of your home.

Everyone benefits when money is saved especially during the holiday season. Wishing you a joyful holiday season!

***- The Directors and Staff at Scenic Rivers  
Energy Cooperative***

# Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is on the move!



*This is the future of SREC in Darlington. The building sits just off of Hwy 81, south of the new Super 8 Motel parking lot. The street address is 300 Barth Dr. and the entrance faces south. SREC hopes to move into the new building mid-December.*

*SREC in Gays Mills has officially moved! All business in Gays Mills, including Skyview DBS, happens at 15985 State Hwy 131, North of Gays Mills. A drop box will be in place soon!*

## Currently Cooking:

### Bacon Cheese Puffs Recipe

I found this recipe on [www.razzledazzlerecipes.com](http://www.razzledazzlerecipes.com) and thought it would be worth trying! Sounds like a great appetizer for your holiday get togethers!

#### Ingredients:

- 1 pound sliced bacon
- 2 ½ C. shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp. mustard
- 1 C. mayonnaise
- 1 lb. sliced pumpernickel party bread

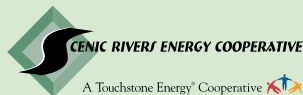
#### Directions:

- Place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Drain, crumble and set aside.
- Pre heat to broil.
- In a medium bowl, combine the bacon, cheese, mustard and mayonnaise. Stir well. Arrange party bread on a cookie sheet. Spoon mixture onto each slice of bread.
- Broil for 5 minutes or until bubbly.



*Makes 30*

**Enter your chance to win \$100 off your electric bill**



Questions call Megan at 800-236-2141 ext. 105

••• **Text Energy to 50857** •••

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative wants to educate our members on issues that call for an immediate response!

Join our network and receive notices about:

- Load Management-including water heater and dual fuel controls
- Peak Demands
- Planned Outages
- Large Storm Outages
- Upcoming Events
- NO SPAM MAIL

## **Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation Support Female Farmers**

Fennimore, WI— Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation recently partnered to provide success tools to southwest Wisconsin farm women. Both organizations are teaming up as the sponsors of Annie's Project, a series of four hands-on training sessions provided by Southwest Tech beginning January 17, 2009.

Annie's Project is organized by the Southwest Tech Farm Business and Production Management instructors and is designed to empower farm women to increase farm business



*Participants in the Southwest Tech 2008 Annie's Project hone their skills in agricultural accounting.*



skills through networking and by managing and organizing critical information. The Annie's Project curriculum includes agriculture-based training in on-farm risk management, financial statements, accounting principles, farm legal issues, cost reduction, and personal development.

"The demand for farm management training geared toward female farmers is increasing," said Deb Ihm. "Southwest Tech had a full class of 24 participants in last year's Annie's Project with 15 more women on a waiting list."

The number of female farmers is on the rise in Wisconsin. University of Wisconsin Extension statistics show that Wisconsin had a 26 percent increase in female principal farm operators from 1997 to 2002. This statistic represents over 7,000 Wisconsin women who identify themselves as the primary business owner of a farm operation.

Keeping the Annie's Project registration costs affordable was important to both Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and the Elmer G. Biddick

Charitable Foundation. "As a rural energy cooperative, we value the role that female farmers play in southwest Wisconsin," said Rick Kolb, CEO of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative. "Supporting Annie's Project and Southwest Tech is an opportunity to improve the quality of life for our members in agricultural operations."

In addition to expert training, Annie's Project participants receive tools that producers can use in their farm operation. A business organizer, alfalfa quality PEAQ sticks, family record binders, and personality assessment books are all included in the \$40 course fee. Similar Annie's Project programs have cost \$300 to attend. "We wouldn't be able to offer this training to southwest Wisconsin residents for anywhere near the current price without the support of organizations like the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation and Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative," said Ihm.

To find out more information or to register for the 2009 Annie's Project you can visit [swtc.edu](http://swtc.edu) or call Deb Ihm at Southwest Tech (608) 822-2741.

### **Attention Members-**

We'd like to hear from you about any former Youth Leadership Congress students who are now working at an electric cooperative, working as a staff person for a Legislator or Congressman, or getting elected to a leadership position. The elected position could be a community leadership position or government official. So, if you or someone you know went through the Youth Leadership Congress program please give us a call and bring us up to date! 800-236-2141 ext 105.

## Give the Gift of Energy Efficiency

When it comes to shopping for and comparing appliances and home electronics, look for the EnergyGuide and ENERGY STAR® labels to ensure the energy efficiency credentials of what's in the box.

The Federal Trade Commission requires yellow EnergyGuide labels on most home appliances (except for ranges and ovens). These labels provide an estimate of the product's energy consumption or energy efficiency, and compare it to the highest and lowest energy consumption or efficiency estimates of similar appliance models.

You won't find EnergyGuide labels on home electronics such as computers, televisions, and home audio equipment. Instead, look for blue ENERGY STAR labels on these products, indicating they've met strict energy efficiency criteria established by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ensuring that what you take home is energy efficient can make a big difference in the long run. The average home boasts two TVs, three telephones, and a DVD player. If these items were replaced with ENERGY

STAR qualified models, it would save more than 25 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions a year, equivalent to removing more than 2 million cars from the road.

Some home electronic products, like those with clock displays and remote controls, use energy even when they're switched off, costing U.S. households \$100 per year. Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR use less energy to perform "standby" functions, while providing the same performance and features as conventional models.

Using less energy preserves energy resources while saving money on energy bills. An energy-efficient gift is truly a gift that keeps on giving!

For more information, visit [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov) or [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

**Sources:** ENERGY STAR, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



## 10 Tips to prepare for winter weather

It's never too late to prepare your home, cabin or business for winter. Whether you're there each day or away for the season, these steps will help you protect your property, conserve energy and save money:

- 1) Add or replace weather stripping around doors and windows.
- 2) Seal leaks around pipes and wires with caulking or weather stripping.
- 3) Check for holes, gaps and cracks in floors, ceilings, foundation and siding, then seal with caulking or weather stripping.
- 4) Replace worn door stops.
- 5) If you have storm doors and windows, install them. Don't forget to winterize basement windows.
- 6) Install insulating kits for electrical plugs on exterior walls.
- 7) Be sure walls, ceilings and the attic have enough insulation.
- 8) Vacuum heat vents and replace furnace filters.
- 9) Inspect and clean the chimney; close damper when not in use.
- 10) Adjust thermostats, especially in unoccupied rooms.

To lower your electric bill, consider off-peak electric heat and electric water heaters. These products are energy efficient, clean and safe. When combined with off-peak rates, they're an excellent value!

## Power Your Mind – Learn who is bringing you power

### Bob Bedward Lineman

#### Family-

- Wife - Karen
- 5 kids
- 11 grandkids

#### Hobbies-

- Golf
- Working in my shop

#### Why did you choose to become employed at SREC?

I like working outdoors and I love this area. This job gave me a chance to have both.



#### What do you enjoy most about your job at SREC?

I enjoy doing a variety of jobs and my co-workers are great to work with.



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 Megan Graney, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

[www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

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