

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Season's Greetings from Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative

Holiday cheer and safety go hand-in-hand

The spirit of the season is reflected in the warmth and cheer of bright holiday lights. Make sure this season is a happy one for your family by taking a few minutes to assess the electrical safety of your holiday items.

- After a year in storage, thoroughly check holiday lights. Damaged electrical cords propose 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.

Go Green with LED holiday lights and save money

Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights 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.

For more information on LED lights and incentives contact your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative- Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at 723-2121.

Winter Warmth

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative can help you keep your home-heating system efficient and comfortable. Contact us to learn about a heating system that is right for you, along with energy saving tips and procedures.

After all, spending money on holiday gifts and donations is much more rewarding than throwing it away to the cold winter wind.



focus on energy™
The power is within you.

Understanding Home Performance and Protecting Your Investment

Cold winter weather setting in may bring memories of twinkling holiday lights, hot cocoa and snowmen in the front yard for some. But, for others, it may also be a reminder of drafty rooms, window condensation, an aging heating system, high energy bills, or icicles hanging from the eaves that could be a sign of roof damage.

If this sounds like you – or if you are considering improvements to your home to prevent these problems – it is important to understand first that your house works as a system. Changes you make to one part of the home can have a domino effect with unintended results that impact the comfort, durability, safety and energy efficiency of the house as a whole.

A consultant partnering with Focus on Energy's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program can perform testing and a comprehensive whole-house energy evaluation to identify the cause of these problems and which improvements are the wisest investment for your home. The consultant will also be able to recommend qualified contractors and tell you whether the improvements you make are eligible for Cash-Back Rewards from Focus on Energy.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative will be sponsoring three Home Performance with ENERGY STAR demonstrations in December and is currently recruiting volunteers with homes at least 30 years old that have experienced any of the concerns above to be considered as potential demonstration sites. In addition, a limited number of guests will be able to attend each Home Performance with ENERGY STAR evaluation. To volunteer your home as a demonstration site in one of the following counties, or to register as an attendee, please contact Megan at 800-236-2141 ext. 105.

- December 11 at 9:00 AM – Crawford County
- December 11 at 1:00 PM – Grant County
- December 14 at 10:00 AM – Lafayette County

Questions on the Line

Season of Giving- What is Operation Round Up?

Part of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's vision is to "...strive to identify ways to improve the quality of life for our community." With this vision as our guiding light, the Board of Directors decided to join other Wisconsin Cooperatives with a program, called Operation Round-Up, designed to support local community concerns.

Operation Round-Up gathers contributions from participating co-op consumers by "rounding up" their monthly bills to the next dollar - resulting in an average donation of roughly six dollars (\$6.00) per year, which is distributed to individuals and organizations. For example, a consumer's monthly bill of \$52.73 would be automatically rounded up to \$53.00, with the additional 27 cents going to the Operation Round-Up fund.

Typically, the funding is used to address CRUCIAL needs such as food, clothing, shelter, medical care and education, but is not limited to these. To apply for these funds, interested applicants need to request an application form, complete it and return it to the Cooperative.

Our current policy provides that ALL members are automatically enrolled in Operation Round-Up unless you notify us through e-mail, mail, or phone that you do NOT wish to have your bills rounded up.

Thanks to your contributions we have been able to donate to the following organizations:

- 73 area fire & rescue squads
- 17 area food pantries
- 5 area hospitals
- United Way in 3 counties
- Relay for Life in 3 counties
- Hodan Center
- Habitat for Humanity
- Wisconsin Badger Camp
- Crawford Opportunity Center
- Foundation for Rural Housing
- SW Opportunity Center
- Various other local charities
- Several families with extreme medical needs
- Several families with fire losses

Each organization has been very appreciative of your willingness to help them. Operation Round-Up has truly touched the lives of the people who live in the communities we serve. We extend our sincere appreciation to all our members for their generous support.

continued →

Currently Cooking



Are you looking for an easy salad for your holiday gathering? I might have just the recipe for you. This recipe is off of the website www.self.com. 2268400

Easy Ceasar Salad

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 slices whole-wheat bread | 1 clove garlic |
| 1-2 anchovy fillets, sliced | Juice of 1/2 lemon (about 2 tsp) |
| 2 tbsps extra virgin olive oil | 1/8 tsp salt |
| 8 romaine lettuce leaves, cut into bite-size pieces | |
| Freshly ground black pepper 7109900 | |

Toast bread until very crisp, then rub with garlic. Chop any leftover garlic and put in a salad bowl; beat anchovies, lemon juice, oil and salt with a fork until well emulsified. Add lettuce; toss to evenly coat leaves. Grind black pepper over salad. Dice garlic toast and add croutons to salad. Toss again to mix well. Serve salad immediately!

Don't forget- LED light rebates

Do your part to keep this holiday season 'greener' by reducing the impact on our environment and keep a little more 'green' in your wallet by taking advantage of cash-back incentives from your energy provider. Now through December 31, 2007, you have two different options to save on energy saving LED holiday lights. One option is to shop at one of the participating ENERGY STAR program partners that offer an instant \$3 incentive through Focus on Energy. If you do not shop at a participating retailer you can still qualify for a \$2 cash rebate through Scenic River Energy Cooperative by simply filling out the November rebate bill insert form or calling 608-723-2121 ext. 105.

Happy Holidays from the Directors and Staff at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative

Power Your Mind - Learn who is bringing you power

Ellen Conley

Representing District 4- Boscobel, Castle Rock, Fennimore, Hickory Grove, Marion, Millville, Mt. Hope, Mt. Ida, Muscoda, Watterstown, Wingville, Woodman

Family-

- Husband and Best Friend: Dennis of 27 years
- Children:
 - Emilee (John) Scheid
 - Joshua
 - Lacey Elizabeth (deceased in 1985)
- 1st grandbaby September 20th, 2007 Elizabeth Lacey Scheid

Occupation-

Proud Farmer (Dairy)/ farmwife/ bookkeeper

Hobbies--

- Garage Sales, thrift shops and auctions, love finding old and unique things. I am a collector!
- I have a collection of teddy bears in a bathroom in our over 100-year home. The year the teddy bear turned 100 is when our bathroom was remodeled.
- I love pictures, scrap booking, and making picture collages with my computer and printer.
- I am told I mow a lot of grass, I like yard work.
- Like to tinker and fix things and remodeling
- I like to do field work; I can really "chil-lax" (chill and relax)

I do my best thinking there! That is where the honey-do-list gets made, poor Dennis!

- Spending time with Dennis, our family and some crazy girlfriends.
- I like to cook, bake and eat!
- My latest #1 ENJOYMENT and excitement is my newest love, our grandbaby, Elizabeth "Lizzy". Is there anything more fun?
- FAITH* FAMILY* FRIENDS* FARMING- sums it up. I FEEL VERY BLESSED.

Why did you choose to become a Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Director?

I have been a member for a long time and felt it would be nice to get involved and to make a difference. My dad, Jim Kusmaul, and father-in-law, George Conley, served as directors and I know they enjoyed the teamwork and challenge too, as I do now.

What do you enjoy most about serving as a director?

I would have to say I've enjoyed the learning experience and meeting new people. The board members are a great group to work with. I have enjoyed the



Continued... Operation Round-Up

Can Operation Round-Up funds be used to pay electric bills?

No. We do not use these funds to pay electric bills.

Are Operation Round-Up donations limited to cooperative members?

No. Donations may be made to anyone or any organization within the area that Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative serves.

Are Operation Round-Up donations tax exempt?

No. We would have to file a 501(c)3 with the IRS and the directors decided not to do that at this time.

How are Operation Round-Up funds applied for?

Applications are designated for either an individual or an organization in need. The correct form must be completed and forwarded to the Cooperative. The applications are reviewed by the board of directors and a decision is then made on disbursement of funds.

challenge of trying something new and turning it in to a positive job representing and making good choices for the members and employees of SREC. I have been on "board" now for 4 1/2 years and I can honestly say I still come out of the boardroom educated. Thank you members for the "electrifying" trust and support you have given me as your director, I will keep "plug-in" away to do my very best to represent district 4. Your support has meant a great deal to me and if you need me I am here.

Can you find it?

Find your account number hidden in the newsletter, call the office and win a \$5 gift certificate towards your electric bill.



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

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Megan Graney..... Editor

Our board of directors consists of Tom Bennett, Don Walters, Sandy Davidson, Norman Gordon, Gerald Koeller, David Stute, Merlin Kvigne, Larry Butson, and Ellen Conley.

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