

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Don't Post on Poles, Please

When our line crews climb utility poles, they depend on having solid, unobstructed structures underfoot. However, this isn't always so.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative strives to keep poles as safe as possible, but some aspects of maintaining unscathed poles are out of the co-op's control. For example, when people attach signs, posters, and recreational equipment such as basketball rims to utility poles, they create serious hazards for line personnel.

Sharp objects such as nails, tacks, staples, and barbed wire all present possible dangers for co-op line crews, who climb poles all hours of the day and night and in the worst of conditions. If a lineperson's hooks slip while he is climbing, his descent down could become much more severe if an arm or leg catches a nail or other object tacked into the pole. Sharp objects not only might compound a fall, but they can also puncture rubber gloves

and other safety equipment, making a lineperson vulnerable to electrocution.

Additionally, when a lineperson has to remove objects from poles in order to climb during an outage, it takes that much longer to restore power.

We ask that you please not attach or affix any signs, posters, fences, or other fixtures to the co-op's poles. We want them to be safe for our line people and for you.



Keep Safety in Mind During Spring Cleaning

Yes, it's that time of year again. Time to clean up the winter's cobwebs and the spring's muddy footprints.

Before you start cleaning up the grime, read the instructions on the cleaning solution. These vary from product to product; it is best to follow their guidelines. The following are other safe guidelines to practice:

- ▶ Always have the national poison control and prevention hotline number near the phone 1-800-222-1222.
- ▶ Cleaning products should never be mixed. Combining bleach and ammonia creates a deadly gas.
- ▶ Always keep the cleaners in the original container. It will reduce the confusion and risk when using the cleaner, which could otherwise be mistaken for something harmless.
- ▶ Do not use the chemical near an open flame. The cleaning solution could be flammable.
- ▶ After the cleaning spree, remember to put the lid back on the containers and place the chemicals out of the way of children and pets.
- ▶ If you find some old paint, wood stain, cleaners, or fertilizer in the garage or basement, contact your local Solid Waste Department. They will inform you on the best ways to dispose of the chemicals.



Wind Power— There are blocks of wind energy available for our members to buy at \$1.50 per block of 100 kWh. If you are interested in conserving our nonrenewable energy sources call and order a block today. For every block ordered, we buy that much from the wind energy source.



Easy Ways to Increase Your Fiber Intake

- ▶ Eat an orange or grapefruit instead of drinking juice for breakfast.
- ▶ Eat the skin on baked potatoes.
- ▶ Prepare long-grain brown rice instead of refined white rice.
- ▶ Top casseroles with wheat germ or crumbled whole-grain cereal.
- ▶ Top yogurt and cottage cheese with fresh berries.
- ▶ Eat whole-wheat bread instead of white bread.
- ▶ Snack on carrot and celery sticks.
- ▶ Add a can of beans to soup or stew.

Currently Cooking



If you are looking for something to serve along with sandwiches for a get together try this casserole.

Party Beans

½ lb. bacon, fry, drain grease

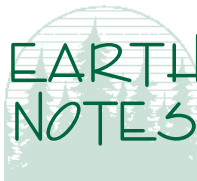
Add:

- ½ C. ketchup
- ¼ C. cider vinegar
- ¾ C. brown sugar
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- 1 small onion diced
- ½ tsp. garlic salt



Simmer 5 minutes. In a large casserole dish, add 1 large can of Bushes Beans, 1 can kidney beans, and 1 can butter beans (drained). Add bacon mixture, mix and bake at 350° for 1 hour.

Landscaping for beauty and energy efficiency



It's seems early, but with seed catalogs coming every day in the mail, it isn't too soon to be planning your landscaping for beauty and energy efficiency for the upcoming season. Some tips from the Wisconsin Energy Bureau, Department of Administration, are as follows:

1. Evergreen trees planted on the northwest corner of your property can block winter winds and save you up to 25 percent on your heating bill.
2. Windbreaks planted on three sides of the house can save up to 40 percent on your heating bill.
3. Plant shade trees (deciduous trees) on the west and south sides of your house.
4. In winter, deciduous trees without their leaves let in the sun to warm your home.
5. In summer, deciduous trees can block 70 percent to 80 percent of the sun's radiation.
6. Shade trees do a better job of cooling a building than do Venetian blinds, plastic coatings, or

reflective coatings on windows.

7. Shade your air conditioner to increase its efficiency by 10 percent during peak periods.
8. Shrubs planted on all sides of the house help reduce wall and soil temperatures.
9. Plant vines on a trellis a few feet from the wall to shade your walls and windows.
10. Air conditioners in a fully shaded house need to work only one-half as much as those in an unshaded house.

Remember to also look both up and down when you plan your landscaping. Look up to make sure there are no power lines directly overhead that may cause problems when your trees and shrubs have grown to their mature height.

Digging into an area where electric cables are buried can be a deadly mistake. Look down to make sure there are no cables buried where you're planning to landscape. If you're not sure, call Diggers Hotline, toll free (800)242-8511.

Just For Fun

You grew up in Wisconsin, if....



- ◆ The town you live in has a bakery called Ma's.
- ◆ You know how to polka, but never tried it sober.
- ◆ FFA was the most popular club in high school.
- ◆ You know what's knee-high by the Fourth of July.
- ◆ You know it's traditional for the bride and groom to go bar hopping between the ceremony and the reception.
- ◆ You are a connoisseur of cheese curds, and find anyone unfamiliar with them to be frighteningly foreign.
- ◆ You spent more on beer than you did on food at your wedding.
- ◆ You or someone you know was a "Dairy Princess" at a county fair.
- ◆ You know that "combine" is a noun.
- ◆ You think Lutheran and Catholic are THE major religions.



WATT'S HAPPENING

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Any questions or comments can be directed to Watt's Happening, c/o Joan Wagner, 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.

Richard E. Kolb Manager
Joan Wagner Editor

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