

# WATT' HAPPENING

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

## Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Celebrates National Cooperative Month



October is National Cooperative Month, and SREC— and all co-ops across the U.S. – are celebrating the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities.

While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member’s economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

The co-op business model is unique and rooted in our local communities. Co-ops help us build a more participatory, sustainable, and resilient economy. SREC is proud to be part of America’s cooperative network, which includes more than 47,000 cooperative businesses. Electric co-ops provide power for many Wisconsin residents, with twenty-five electric co-ops serving approximately 600,000 members. Scenic Rivers is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

To learn more, visit us at [sre.coop](http://sre.coop) or follow us on Facebook. ■



During Co-op Month, we will be celebrating our members with daily bill credit drawings and sending all members a complimentary 2022 calendar. Details on the daily drawings

can be found in our October Wisconsin Energy News magazine. Winners will be notified daily, and listed online. Credits will appear on November bill statements. See page 2 for more information on the 2022 calendar.

# 2022 Photo Calendar Contest

## Our members are winners

For many years we have invited members to participate in our photo contest, where we feature the very best submissions in our annual calendar. Last year, due to the pandemic, we mailed all our members a free calendar. We were happy to hear that you liked getting the calendars, and therefore, we're doing it again. In celebration of Co-op Month, we will be mailing each member a free 2022 SREC Member Calendar. We hope you'll take a moment to congratulate the following photographers (in no particular order) whose work is featured in this year's calendar:

April Miller, Platteville  
Connie Achenbach, Prairie du Chien  
John Anderson, Cuba City  
Pat Wester, Fennimore  
Nicole Miller, Platteville  
Jodi Splinter, Hazel Green  
Jamee Stanley, Soldiers Grove  
Deb Udelhoven, Fennimore  
Bobbi Jo Gofus, Bagley  
Steve Limbach, Fennimore  
Deb Gates, Eastman  
Jake Miller, Platteville  
Kathy Miller, Cuba City  
Gary Cohen, Blanchardville  
Craig Grau, Livingston  
Michelle Skala, Platteville  
Lily Miller, Platteville



Maureen Prestbroten, Blanchardville  
Nancy Dowling, Gays Mills  
Mark Steffensmeier, Bloomington

Thank you to all of the members who submitted photos this year. There were many, many wonderful submissions, including some from our young cooperative members, and we wish we could use all the photos we received, but we just can't. We hope you will enjoy this free calendar throughout 2022. Details on our 2023 Member Photo Contest will be announced soon. ■



## PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

### DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

### DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

October is  
Cybersecurity  
Awareness Month.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

# MAKE YOUR DECORATIONS THE ONLY SCARY THING OUTSIDE THIS HALLOWEEN

Christmas is no longer the only holiday that we bring out lights and yard decorations to show our festive spirit. Halloween has become a time to string up lights, plug in fog machines, light up those electric powered decorations and create a yard that is scare-worthy to any trick-or-treater that may stop by. But beware of the hidden electrical dangers that could spoil your holiday.



Safe Electricity offers these tips to make your Halloween safe and fun:

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Check for cracking, fraying or bare wires, as they may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Replace any damaged decorations.
- Make sure any lights, animated displays, or other electrical outdoor products are Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and marked for outdoor use.
- Follow the care and instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.



## Be Safe, Be Seen on HALLOWEEN

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Twice as many kids are killed while walking on Halloween than any other day of the year.

**BE SAFE, BE SEEN**

Wear reflective tape, use glowsticks or carry a flashlight so drivers can see you.

<p><b>Walk Safely</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Cross at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.</li><li>✓ Look left, right and left again.</li><li>✓ Use sidewalks.</li><li>✓ Watch for cars turning or backing up.</li></ul>	<p><b>Drive Safely</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Watch out for kids crossing mid-block.</li><li>✓ Slow down and be especially alert.</li><li>✓ Look for kids who might be trying to cross mid-block.</li><li>✓ Keep phones down so you are not distracted.</li></ul>
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**Have fun and share this!**

**SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE**

# MAKE YOUR DECORATIONS THE ONLY SCARY THING OUTSIDE THIS HALLOWEEN...continued from p.3

Safe Electricity offers these tips to make your Halloween safe and fun (cont.):

- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If your outlets don't have them, either contact a qualified electrician to install them or use portable GFCIs instead.
- Keep electrical cords out of walkways to avoid tripping hazards.
- Turn off all electrical decorations and lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Consider using a timer.
- When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.



Avoid any tricks this Halloween by enjoying your treats and decorating safely. Get more safety tips at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org). ■



**LOOK UP**  
For overhead power lines when operating farm equipment.  


## Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will continue trimming on the Mt. Zion substation in Crawford County during October.

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. During this time, we especially appreciate your cooperation as we maintain social distancing between our essential staff and our members. **If you have questions, please contact Jay at [jgardner@srec.net](mailto:jgardner@srec.net) or call 800-236-2141 ext. 566.**

## WATT'S HAPPENING

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, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

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

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