

# insight

April 2015

## GRU Celebrates Earth Day

Celebrated in more than 192 countries around the world, this year marks the 45th anniversary of Earth Day.



Over the last few decades, GRU has worked with the City of Gainesville to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, invest in renewable resources, and restore and improve the natural beauty of our community.

Among GRU's recent environmental initiatives is the Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration project, which restored more than 1,300 acres of wetlands. Sweetwater Wetlands Park, constructed as a part of the project, is slated to open to the public on weekends in May.

In honor of Earth Day, GRU is posting daily "acts of green" on Facebook to encourage customers to protect the environment. Gainesville is also participating in the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. See all the ways you can conserve at [Facebook.com/gru4u](https://www.facebook.com/gru4u).

For energy-saving tips,  
visit [gru.com](http://gru.com)

**GRU**<sup>SM</sup>  
More than Energy

## Call Before You Dig

Digging in unmarked ground is dangerous. Always know where electric, gas, water, telephone and other utility lines are buried to avoid injury or costly repairs.



Call 811 before digging, and professional locators will mark utility lines with highly visible, water-based paint or flags within two business days.

For more information, visit [sunshine811.com](http://sunshine811.com) or [gru.com](http://gru.com).

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## GRU Competing in Florida Lineman Competition



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Lineman Competition takes place this month at the Tallahassee Auto Museum. GRU will be represented by two teams of

competitors and two judges.

Forty teams and 50 apprentices from across Florida will compete in fast-paced, exciting challenges that demonstrate the skills lineworkers use to provide safe, reliable electric service every day. GRU linemen Kyle Fagan, Alvin Moore, Stephen Pavai, Gary Mckenzie, Bruce Smith, and Chris Beckham will compete. Joe Young and Danny Roland will serve as judges.

## GRU Tips – Patrice, Senior Analyst

Patrice serves Gainesville by working to minimize the cost of producing electricity. Here are her tips to save energy at home:



- Keep your thermostat at 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer.
- Wash your clothes in cold water only. About 80 percent of energy used when you wash clothes is for heating the water.
- Use glass or ceramic pans when cooking in the oven because it allows you to reduce the temperature by 25 degrees.

Get more tips and learn about Patrice's role in the community at [gru.com/iamgru](http://gru.com/iamgru).

## App Review: GardenMinder

The GardenMinder app, developed by Gardener's Supply Company, includes visual garden-planning tools, automatic weekly alerts, a mobile garden journal and more. Watch a video review of the app by GRU residential efficiency expert Amy Carpus and get more info at [youtube.com/gru4u](http://youtube.com/gru4u).



Do you like GRU's "Insight" customer newsletter? Share your thoughts in a brief survey at [gru.com/insightsurvey](http://gru.com/insightsurvey).

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## Public Service Announcements

### **Bromeliana Workshop**

The Gainesville Bromeliad Society holds its 3rd annual Bromeliana Workshop on Sunday, April 26, 2-4:30 p.m., at UF's Steinmetz Hall. Members will discuss growing tips, potting materials, displays and more. Free and open to the public with bromeliads available for purchase. For more information, call 352-682-7377 or visit [gainesvillebromeliadsociety.org](http://gainesvillebromeliadsociety.org).

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### **Hear Florida's Musical History**

Hear history come alive at the Matheson History Museum's "Florida's Got the Blues" exhibition, open until Thursday, April 30. This exhibit showcases musicians who pioneered blues music during the early 20th century. Admission is \$5. The Matheson is open Monday-Thursday, 9:30 am-3:30 p.m.

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### **Childhood Asthma Program**

Do you have a 6-to 12-year-old child with asthma? Are you interested in receiving free assistance with developing healthy eating and activity habits for your child? Please call the UF Youth Asthma Lab at 352-273-5124 for more information. Eligible families will be compensated for their participation.

*You can view more PSAs at [gru.com/insight](http://gru.com/insight)*

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### **Submit a PSA**

GRU offers PSAs to help local nonprofit organizations that support the arts and sciences or provide a community service. Call 352-393-1485 or email [dongesph@gru.com](mailto:dongesph@gru.com) well in advance to schedule a reservation.