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News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | APRIL 2011

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April is Water Conservation Month

Did you know the average household uses 400 gallons of water each day? To celebrate Water Conservation Month, OUC encourages everyone to conserve at least one gallon of water each day. This small reduction in our community can save enough water to fill an entire lake!

So how can you save a gallon a day? It's easier than you might think.

- Cut your shower time by one minute
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher and clothes washer
- Repair leaking faucets and toilets
- Install water-saver flush valves in toilets
- Install water-saver shower heads and low-flow sink aerators
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly

FIX LEAKS, SAVE BIG:

- A leak the size of a pinhead can waste 360,000 gallons a year
- A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days
- About one in every 20 pools has a leak
- Using a broom to clean the sidewalk instead of a hose saves 150 gallons of water
- A pool cover prevents about 1,000 gallons per month from evaporating

Source for "Leak Facts": American Leak Detection

Save a gallon,
save a lake's worth of water!

save
A GALLON OF
WATER A DAY



OUC's Mobile Site Wins Gold

OUC's new mobile website—m.ouc.com—was recently awarded a gold ADDY for creative excellence by the American Advertising Federation. The mobile site lets customers interact with OUC on the go. You can pay your bill, check your account, find a rebate or get conservation tips right from your cell phone. OUC's conservation-focused ReliablyGreen.com and new online **Energy Savings Calculator** also earned silver ADDYs. OUC partnered with Orlando-based interactive communications firm Hooah LLC on all three projects to expand OUC's online presence and deliver more energy and water saving information to customers.



National Drinking Water Week is May 2-6

Ensuring pure, great-tasting water is a top priority at OUC and the reason we'll be joining the American Water Works Association in celebrating Drinking Water Week on May 2-6. OUC's delicious tap water starts with a pristine, well-protected source: the Lower Floridan Aquifer. OUC then treats this water with ozone, the strongest disinfectant available, to ensure the highest quality and best tasting water. Visit www.ouc.com to learn more about your drinking water.

Help Prevent Wildfires

This spring keep in mind that April and May are two of the most active months for wildfires. Longer days coupled with windy and warmer weather conditions allow for easy fire starts that spread rapidly.

Dry vegetation – both living and dead – is easily ignited. So think before you act! Consider that the following objects and activities can start a wildfire, destroying homes, threatening lives and damaging our natural resources:

- Sparks from equipment
- Abandoned campfires
- Hot charcoal from barbecue grills
- Hot vehicle exhaust systems
- Tossed cigarettes
- Unattended debris burning
- Discarded fireworks

Fire restrictions may be in effect in some areas. For information, contact the Florida Division Forestry at **407.856.6512** or go to www.fl-dof.com.



The Art of Conservation



OUC—The Reliable One is committed to protecting Orlando's vital water supply and believes teaching young people at any age to respect the value of water will help them grow into environmentally conscious adults in the years to come. As part of that commitment, OUC and Orange County Utilities created **The Water Color Project**—a water conservation-themed art partnership designed to help educate Orange County students about water conservation.

In 2010, 14 elementary schools participated in the calendar art contest and 11 middle and high schools in the rain barrel painting contest. Their artwork is featured in the 2011 calendar and the rain barrels are on display at locations around Orange County.

To learn more about OUC's conservation programs, visit www.ouc.com/ReliablyGreen.



OUC Celebrates Earth Day



Stop by the OUC booth on Saturday, April 23 for conservation tips from the experts at the 6th Annual Central Florida Earth Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Lake Eola. OUC representatives will be on hand to answer questions on how to improve the efficiency of your home or business and which improvements will result in the biggest savings.



Para ver esta edición de *OUConexión*, por favor vaya en línea a espanol.ouc.com.



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