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### Don't Forget!

TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair and Conference is May 3-4.

For more information, and to register, visit the [website](#).

## Take Care of Texas Tips

### At Home: Collect Food Scraps, Oil, and Grease

A clogged drain at home can be a real nuisance. Clogged sewer lines can cause overflows that pollute nearby creeks and streams. By using strainers to catch food scraps and collecting cooking grease in a container for disposal, you can keep fats, oils, and grease from clogging up

## It's Time to Check Your Landscape Irrigation System!

Springtime and warmer weather are right around the corner, and it is time to make sure your irrigation system is in good shape!

To make sure that your irrigation system works properly and also conserves water, you should have a licensed landscape irrigator inspect your system at least once a year. A spring tune-up normally includes:

- inspecting each zone,
- unclogging spray nozzles,
- adjusting sprinkler heads, and
- adjusting the watering schedule.

The inspection should address common problems such as broken sprinkler heads, lack of proper coverage, replacement of nozzles, and timer and electric valve functions.

Irrigators and irrigation technicians are required to be licensed by the State of Texas. To find a licensed irrigator in your area, or to verify licensing information, visit [www5.tceq.texas.gov/lic\\_dpa/](http://www5.tceq.texas.gov/lic_dpa/).

For more tips on watering your lawn efficiently, see *Landscape Irrigation: A Take Care of Texas Guide, GI-409*.



## Get Involved with American Wetlands Month

May is American Wetlands Month, a time when organizations throughout the U.S. strive to educate the public about the importance of wetlands to the environment. Wetlands provide significant environmental benefits, including:

- improved water quality,
- increased water storage and supply,
- reduced flood risk, and
- habitats for plants, fish, and wildlife.

To help conserve wetland resources near you, consider volunteering with a community group, or talk to your local government about steps they are taking to protect water quality.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved, visit [www.epa.gov/owow\\_keep/wetlands/awm/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow_keep/wetlands/awm/index.html).

## General Motors Arlington Assembly Facility Mentors Students

General Motors (GM) Arlington Assembly facility, a Clean Texas Platinum Member, mentors students and facilitates stream-water sampling and classroom

your home's drain pipes or the city's sewer line. By properly disposing of your food scraps and cooking grease in the trash can, you can reduce plumbing costs. The cost of an average plumber's visit is \$250.

### **Around the Office: Reuse Office Supplies**

When choosing office supplies, choose items that can be reused. Some, like refillable pens and pencils, folders, and envelopes, can be reused many times. Also, find out if your office printers will accept remanufactured toner cartridges. By using these or by recycling cartridges, you can help eliminate waste.

projects through its [Global Rivers Environmental Education Network](#) program. The program offers water education; helps young people understand, improve, and sustain water resources in their community; and supports resource conservation at school, work, and home. Students collect water quality data that is then used by the Texas Stream Team partnership, a network of trained volunteers working together to gather information about the natural resources of Texas. Global Rivers' education and mentor-training programs support watersheds through local schools and educational organizations.



Beginning in Grand Prairie ISD, the program has reached more than 100,000 students in the U.S. and continues to expand into new communities each year. In January 2011, volunteers from General Motors' Arlington Assembly facility joined the annual kickoff celebration at Grand Prairie ISD's Watershed Conference. The conference engages middle and high school students for a day of learning and fun, and builds water-science skills they can apply throughout the academic year.

For more information about the Clean Texas program, visit <[www.cleantexas.org](http://www.cleantexas.org)>.

### **National Drinking Water Week: May 1–7**



## **Drinking Water Week 2011**

National Drinking Water Week is held annually to help people understand the importance that drinking water has on our daily lives. To assist communities in promoting National Drinking Water Week, the American Water Works Association offers free materials for download on its [website](#).

For more information and ways to participate, visit <[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)>.

### **Highlighted TCEQ Publications**

*The Texas Clean Rivers Program, GI-63*, describes the goals and activities of the Texas Clean Rivers Program and how the public can get involved.

*Has Your Vehicle Failed its Emissions Test? Need Help?, GI-332*, explains how Drive a Clean Machine can help pay for replacing a vehicle that failed its emissions test.

To order TCEQ publications, visit <[www.tceq.texas.gov/publications](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications)>.

#### **Take the Survey!**

The TCEQ values your opinion on how we are doing and how we can improve. To make your opinion known, fill out a survey today. Go online at <[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey)> or to request a paper copy, call 800-687-4040.

**The Take Care of Texas program is on Facebook.**



Connect with Take Care of Texas to find out about events, tips, and interesting tidbits from Texans.

