

Tennessee Backflow News

Fall 2019



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Oct. 10, 2019
Courtyard by Marriot
5:30 pm

1306 Greshampark Dr
Murfreesboro, TN
Directions:
615-848-3222

Upcoming Events

2019
Conference to be held in
Murfreesboro, TN on
October 11th at the
Courtyard by Marriott.

1306 Greshampark Dr.
Murfreesboro, TN
37129

More information on
website

INSIDE

TN Training Calendar3
Board Meeting Update.....5
Section News6 & 7

TBPA Mission Statement

The mission of the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association is to protect drinking water quality in the State of Tennessee by providing for education, statewide training, standardized certification, technical assistance and resources to our membership and the general public.

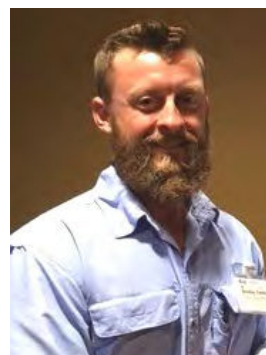
President's Message

Greetings fellow members!

What a busy year it has been! With the dry weather we've had lately, there has definitely been an increase in construction. Lots of new homes and buildings equates lots of new water connections requiring backflow prevention. Educating the public is an important part of a cross connection control program. Having a plan to find and eliminate cross connection hazards is vital to a successful program. We hope that being a member of the TBPA is a resourceful way to increase your awareness and knowledge of protecting our drinking water. From becoming familiar with latest backflow devices, gathering updates/changes at the State level, to learning tips on enforcement and compliance for your program, TBPA strives to assist the membership with resources to protect the drinking water in Tennessee. Being an active TBPA member can be a valuable tool for those working in the backflow industry. We hope that you are taking advantage of the opportunities available through the TBPA. Contact a board member to let us know what areas you need help with.

Update: If you have had a change in contact information, please make sure to send your updated information to Michael Robeson at mrobeson@musfiber.net.

Happy
Fall
Y'all



Bradley Tomlin
TBPA President

TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
Bradley Tomlin President	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7531 btomlin@jaxenergy.com	731-422-7221
Wayne Osborne Past President	Shelbyville Power Murfreesboro, TN	931-684-5713 wosborne@shelbyvillepower.com	937-685-0113
Bill Jennings Vice-President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
Kitty Vaughn Secretary	TN American Water Chattanooga, TN	423-771-4705 kitty.banks@amwater.com	423-266-2663
Kim Pritchett Treasurer	TN American Water Chattanooga, TN	423-771-4724 kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com	423-771-4790
Michael Robeson Director-At-Large / Membership	Morristown Utility Morristown, TN	423-317-6316 mrobeson@musfiber.net	
David Wright Director, West	MLGW Memphis, TN	901-528-4449 dwright@mlgw.org	901-334-5434
David Risner Director, Middle	Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Murfreesboro, TN	615-848-3222 drisner@murfreesborotn.gov	615-848-3244
Kent Bowman Director, East	Bowman Backflow	865-258-2800 kentbowman@comcast.net	
Brent Ogles Director-At-Large	TAUD	615-900-1011 brentogles@taud.org	615-898-8283
Kathy Riley ABPA Region 3 Director	Charlotte, NC	704-293-6859 kriley@ci.charlotte.nc.us	
Tim Brown ABPA President	Charlottesville, VA	434-977-4511 ext. 119 tbrown@serviceauthority.org	

The Tennessee Backflow News is published quarterly by the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association, whose members have a common interest in protecting the drinking water from contamination through cross connections. Your ideas, experience and expertise are invited and needed by the TBPA to insure a balanced approach to backflow prevention in the State of Tennessee. Your participation and support will continue to help shape the future of this industry in Tennessee.

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements in this publication are not necessarily those endorsed or supported by the TBPA. The content of this newsletter is not to be considered as legal or professional advice.

Dues are \$85 annually. (Dues include \$65 for National and \$20 for Tennessee) National membership is required for Tennessee membership.

Mail membership dues to:
American Backflow Prevention Association
100 N.20th St. - Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19103

For newsletter advertisements contact:
Kimberly Pritchett
109 Wiehl Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403

TBPA / ABPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association

American Backflow Prevention Association



NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

CHECK ONE: RENEWAL _____ MEMBER # _____ NEW _____

ABPA DUES: \$65.00

TBPA DUES: \$20.00

ANNUAL DUES TOTAL \$85.00

Remit Total to:
ABPA
100 N. 20th St. - Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Includes ABPA quarterly e-newsletters and quarterly TBPA Newsletters. Pre-payment of dues is required to process application. Membership is non-transferable. ABPA membership required for TBPA membership.

Tennessee Training Calendar

The Fleming Training Center: FTC offers Basic and Renewal and Cross Connection Classes to water systems and personnel throughout Tennessee. FTC is located at 2022 Blanton Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, phone: (615) 898-8090, fax: (615) 898- 8064. Hours of operation: Weekdays 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Central Time. For more information and a registration form visit: www.state.tn.us/environment/fleming/. Written registration and 30 days notice is required for the following classes:

The Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD): Offering classes for utilities, municipalities and other industry related businesses and contractors. Classes include Cross Connection Renewal and Basic, Confined Space Entry, CPR/ First Aid, Flagger Safety, Trench Excavation and many others. Customized classes are also available. For more information please visit the Training Page at www.taud.org or contact Tonia Pass at (615) 900-1000 or ToniaPass@taud.org.

2103 Cross Connection Control Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days • Class Fee: \$275

(full time employees of

public water systems are exempt)

Testing Fee: \$60 (no exemptions)

Murfreesboro

Oct. 16-18

Dec. 4-6

Nov. 13-15

Dec. 18-20

3102 Cross Connection Control Renewal

Duration: 1 day • Class Fee: \$110 *(full time employees of public water systems are exempt)*

Testing Fee: \$60 (no exemptions)

Murfreesboro

Oct. 15

Nov. 12

Dec. 17

Basic Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro

Nov. 20-22

Kingsport

Oct. 9-11

Memphis

Oct. 23-25

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro

Nov. 19

Kingsport

Oct. 8

Memphis

Oct. 22

TAUD Backflow Troubleshooting & Advanced Testing
Dates TBD

Fleming Training Center Notice

All registrations forms for classes and seminars must be accompanied by the required fee payment.

Memphis Light Gas & Water

For information and to register for classes contact David Wright at 901-528-4449 or dwright@mlgw.org

Training Information

- **Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 572, Nashville, Tennessee:** Backflow Classes for Apprentices and Journeyman: (615) 227-5542
225 Ben Allen Rd., Nashville, TN 37207
- **Plumbers & Steamfitters, Local #43 JACT:**
Contact Woody Evans, 3013 Riverside Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37406, (423) 365-9972
- **Knoxville Plumbers & Steamfitters, LU #102 JATC:** Knoxville, TN Contact Wayne Summers, 1218 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917 - (865) 525-6305 or lu102jatc@bellsouth.net
- **Plumbers Local Union #17:** For information on classes contact Howard Burgess at (901) 368-9099 or howard@ua17.org - 4229 Prescott Road, Memphis, TN 38118
- **Backflow Control:** Backflow Training and Certification Classes for Mississippi, Alabama & Tennessee. Contact Roger Crane at (662) 333-9007 -262 Boatner Road, Potts Camp, MS 38659

To list or update your training classes contact Kitty Vaughn at kitty.banks@amwater.com.



Lloyd Rainey
lloyd@midamericamktg.com

901-795-0045 Phone
800-365-6154 Toll Free
901-795-0394 Fax
901-619-1050 Cell

P.O. Box 750960
Memphis, Tn 38175
2831 Barris Dr.
Memphis, TN 38132



COMPACT BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY ENCLOSURES

Custom Designs
Custom Sizes
CAD Drawings

Safe-T-Cover
by HydroCowl
Nashville, TN
Phone: 800-245-6333
Fax: 615-259-4481

www.safe-t-cover.com

ASTRA
INDUSTRIAL
SERVICES, INC.

Order Desk:
800-776-1464
Fax:
805-499-9084

KATHE FRAHM

National Backflow Master Parts Distributor

ALL BRANDS: PARTS • KITS • DEVICES • ACCESSORIES
GAUGE CALIBRATION & REPAIR

No Minimum
Large Inventory

Same Day Shipping
Technical Assistance

WILKINS

BACKFLOW PREVENTERS - REGULATORS

REPRESENTED BY

FOX SALES

Phone 615-361-7711

Charlie Fox ~ Steve Smith

Backflow Specialty Co., Inc.
State Certified Testing & Repair Firm

Brad Stinnett
President

BACKFLOWSPECIALTY@COMCAST.NET
[HTTP://WWW.BACKFLOW-SPECIALTY.COM](http://WWW.BACKFLOW-SPECIALTY.COM)

4605 CENTRAL AVE. PIKE
P.O. Box 12162
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912



(865) 688-3171 PHONE
(865) 688-3110 FAX



Backflow Devices Testing & Repair Company

"Together we can protect our drinking water."

Norman H. Zeller

Mobile: (423) 580-6084
E-mail: backflowtester@gmail.com

Office: (706) 965-5951
Fax: (706) 965-9326

TBPA Board Meeting Update - July 10, 2019

- **Treasurer's report:**
Account Balance \$8,436.36
- **TBPA 2019 Conference:**
Conference to be held in Murfreesboro, TN on Oct. 11.
- **Web site:** Ryan is continuing to make updates to the TBPA web site. Thank you Ryan for all of your hard work.
- **Facebook:** Make sure to stay up to date with our Facebook page! Thank you to Bill Jennings for acting as our social media ambassador.

<https://www.facebook.com/tnbackflow/>

- **Newsletter:** Abbie Woodson has taken over as editor of the newsletter. Any changes/adjustments regarding the newsletter please reach out to Abbie at abbie.woodson@amwater.com.

- **Next Board meeting:**
Murfreesboro - Oct. 10, 2019

Old Business:

A one-day conference will be held on Oct. 11th in Murfreesboro, TN at the Courtyard by Marriott. \$100 admission fee for members and \$200 for vendors.

Speakers to include:

1. Health Department
2. Lab-Tronics
3. Ben Rodriguez
4. Fire Service Contractor
5. Backflow Direct
6. Bradley Tomlin

We will no longer have a print version of the newsletter. All future editions will be posted to our website.

New Business:

Elections for Vice President and East Director are upcoming. Current nominees include Wayne Osborne and Kent Bowman, respectively. We will gather other nominations at the conference.

TDEC is in the process of revising their rules and updating their manual. More details to come.

Kent Bowman and Bill Jennings to host a repair class this season with possible partners ARI, Wilkins and Watts.

Not official minutes



Tennessee's premier source of utility & industry training

Cross Connection (Certification & Renewal)
Confined Space
Trench Excavation
CPR/AED First Aid
Flagger Safety
And more...

Convenient and reliable state approved training provided by qualified instructors with decades of expertise and hands-on experience.

For questions or more info on classes, please visit or call us today!
www.taud.org 615-900-1000

TAUD Training Station
Keeping you on track!

East Tennessee News

When I was young, my mother used to tell me, "The older you get, the faster time goes by." Her words couldn't ring more true this season - It's hard to believe summer is over! For most of us in Tennessee, it has been a hot and dry summer. Because of the record high temperatures and this season of drought, and it hasn't been uncommon for irrigation systems that haven't been used in years to be up and running this summer.

This year I have encountered many thrifty homeowners who have tried to repair their backflow devices themselves. From the time I first started in 2001, this has been a concern. They assume that they can use o-ring kits or even rubber to make the diaphragm for the relief valve, or expect that they can go to a rubber and gasket store to buy parts or have an associate make what they need, or even stretch the spring if needed. I always tell them NO! and explain that if something were to happen it could be traced back to their house, making them liable. In these instances, I refer back to last year's TBPA repair class. Jim and Mark with BAVCO provided a hand-out that grabs the attention of even the thriftiest homeowner. I make sure to carry these with me for opportunities like this. If you would like a copy, please feel free to contact me.

I am currently organizing a repair class for November for the East Tennessee section in partnership with Joey Smith with Apollo. Once everything is finalized, the information will be posted to the TBPA website and an email will be sent out to all members.

If anyone has any questions about the repair class, feel free to contact me at (865) 258-2800.



If it seems cheap, and too good to be true, it probably is.

Backflow prevention assemblies are health safety valves and must work reliably. Using non-Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) repair parts will affect their performance.

Issue #1. 3rd Party approval: Per the USC FCCCHR 10th Edition Manual of Cross Connection Control, Section 10.1.1.1.7; "Modifications to backflow prevention assemblies will invalidate the Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research's approval. Assemblies must be installed and maintained in the configuration(s) and orientation(s) in which they were evaluated and approved." Changing any parts, with other than OEM parts, will void the 3rd party approval/listing and more importantly may cause it to not work properly.

Issue #2. Product Liability: All manufacturers carry an insurance policy called Product Liability coverage. Manufacturers have had insurance claims against their products for many reasons (i.e., water damage etc.). If a problem arises with the performance of an installed backflow preventer, and damage results (i.e., body or property), the manufacturer must investigate and will pull the assembly from the field for an evaluation. If the rubber is changed with a non-OEM part, it is not as "they produced it". It now becomes a product of whomever made the change and put the different parts into the assembly, and all approvals, factory coverage and warranties are null and void. The coverage for product liability performance issues now falls on whomever put the non-OEM parts into the assembly.

Issue #3 Performance: Buying a standard o-ring with the same size as an OEM o-ring is very easy to do, but buying one that has the same rubber formulation and performs the same, is much harder to accomplish. The type of SS is another important issue. It seems easy to change basic hardware parts like bolts or washers. If the washer does not properly retain the disc under all flow conditions, and the disc is dislodged from the holder, the check or relief valve will not work properly even though the washer may appear to be the same. The wrong grade of SS can also cause corrosion issues inside the assembly.

The question may be asked; Why should I have to pay what appears to be relatively expensive amount for OEM Parts, when I can buy something similar much cheaper, and nobody will know what I put inside the assembly? As a repair technician, you want to be sure you are not liable for any damages from your actions, whether it is from negligence (bad work) or fraud (selling non OEM parts as genuine). The cost savings is nowhere near commensurate with the liability being assumed. By buying and using only OEM repair parts, you assure the 3rd party approval is maintained, the manufacturer's warranty and product liability is maintained, and performance of the assembly will be as evaluated.

YOUR

**BACKFLOW PRODUCTS
CONNECTION**

20435 South Susana Rd., Long Beach, CA 90810-1136 • (310) 639-5231 • FAX (310) 639-0721 • info@bavco.com • www.bavco.com

I hope everyone has a safe fall season!

-Kent Bowman

East TN Director, TBPA

THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS

We would like to say a special "Thank You" to the Vendors that participated in our Annual Conference. The success of our conference depends on you and we want you to know how much you are appreciated.

Backflow Direct BAVCO TAUD Backflow Control

Backflow Specialty Company

Wilkins Zurn / Ben O'Neal Company

Mid America Marketing (Watts / Ames / Febco)

American Backflow

ARI - United Backflow Solutions, Inc.

Thanks again and we hope to see you at our next conference!

BACKFLOW CONTROL

**Mid-West Instrument
Factory Authorized Service Center**

**Differential Pressure Gauges
Repair • Sales • Certified Calibrations**

262 Boatner Rd.

Potts Camp, MS 38659

Office - 662-333-9007

Fax - 662-333-7544

Roger Crane
Instrument Technician

NEW TBPA MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest TBPA Members. We are delighted to have you working with us in TBPA. If you would like to serve on the Board or a Committee, please contact your Section Director or any Board member.

Steven Tucker	City of Springfield	Springfield, TN
James Jackson	City of Springfield	Springfield, TN
Steve Berkley	Jackson Energy Auth.	Jackson, TN
Jaren Gowan	Jackson Energy Auth.	Jackson, TN
Steven Fitzgerald	Pleasant View Utility	Pleasant View, TN
Norman Eichmann	City of Kingsport	Kingsport, TN
Tommy Heaton	A Georgia BF Tester	Acworth, GA
Jamie Love	Hallsdale Powell Utility	Knoxville, TN
Josh Rau	Clarksville Gas & Water	Clarksville, TN
Steve Ryan	Keeling Company	Knoxville, TN

West Tennessee News

I hope everyone is doing well. I would like to remind you all about our upcoming TBPA Conference which will be held on October 11, 2019 at the Marriott in Murfreesboro, TN. Make sure to mark this one-day event on your calendar! It will be a great opportunity to see new products and services and to meet many people in our field who help ensure the safety of public drinking water. This year's Conference will be a day filled with information, education and fellowship. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

-David Wright
West TN Director, TBPA

Middle Tennessee News

I hope everyone had a great summer. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference on October 11th in Murfreesboro this year. It is sure to be informative as always.

If you need continuing education credits for attending the conference make sure to let me know so I can turn it in to the state. You will receive 6 hours toward your state certification (WW, DS, WT, CS). The board will have our quarterly meeting on Thursday October 10th at 5PM at the Courtyard by Marriott in Murfreesboro. All members are welcome to attend.

Have a safe and happy fall!

-David P. Risner
Middle TN Director, TBPA

***Your Complete Source for all
Backflow Parts & Accessories***

BAVCO
BACKFLOW APPARATUS
&
VALVE CO.

LONG BEACH, CA
Toll Free: (800) 458-3492
Fax: (310) 639-0721
Email: info@bavco.com

**YOUR BACKFLOW
PRODUCTS CONNECTION**

CHARLOTTE, NC
Toll Free: (844) 202-1618
Fax: (704) 684-0028
Email: ncinfo@bavco.com

BACKFLOW LINKS

For more backflow information check out the American Backflow web site: www.abpa.org

Check Out Our Website!

www.tnbackflow.com

Your Association working for safe drinking water in Tennessee

Visit Our Facebook Page!

<https://www.facebook.com/tnbackflow/>

ABPA Harrington / Arthur Memorial Scholarship

2019 - 2020 Essay Contest Topic: *Explain backflow prevention and why it is important in protecting potable water supplies. Discuss some of the hazards that could be a threat to our drinking water, and the types of backflow prevention to protect against them.*

The Scholarship is available to any high school student over 13 and under 20 years of age as of December 31st and legal residents of the United States or Canada. The essayist is NOT required to be college bound! It can be used for any type of advanced education.

Essays must be submitted based on the required topic with an official application form and be 700-1200 words. The winner will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Winners of under this competition are not eligible to win more than once. Entries must be received by 11:59 EST on January 31, 2020. Visit the web site for Complete Rules and Content information - www.abpa.org.



TBPA

Tennessee Backflow Prevention
Association
Abbie Woodson
c/o Tennessee American Water
109 Wiehl Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403