

Tennessee Backflow News

SPRING 2019



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Apr. 3, 2019
Murfreesboro Water Plant
5528 Sam Jared Drive
Murfreesboro, TN
For directions Call:
615-848-3222

Upcoming Events

2019

**Conference to be held in
Murfreesboro, TN on
October 11th**

**Join us for the
TAUD Expo on
May 16th in
Lebanon, TN**

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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.

A Note from our Vice President:

Happy spring to all of our members and welcome to our new members! We are moving closer to warmer weather with winter behind us and spring on the horizon. This means irrigation systems will soon be firing up and our busiest time of the year will begin. At least, it is my busiest time of the year for testing anyway!

With these startups, many of you will notice devices that need to be replaced or repaired because customers either forgot or were unaware of the need to winterize their irrigation systems. The customer might not understand that when the temperatures drop below freezing, water inside the devices will turn to ice and cause damage to these backflow devices left exposed to the elements. I would suggest for each of you to instruct your customers to install unions on the water lines where the backflows connect so that they can be removed and stored inside for winter. If we continue to remind them, it might help them to remember to winterize every fall to avoid these costly repairs in the future.

I would like to thank all of our TBPA members in the pursuit to keep all of our drinking water free of contamination from cross connections.

-Bill Jennings
Vice President, TBPA

happy spring!

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



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CHECK ONE: RENEWAL _____ MEMBER # _____ NEW _____

ABPA DUES: \$65.00
TBPA DUES: \$20.00
ANNUAL DUES TOTAL \$85.00

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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

June 12-14 Mar, /4+/6

July 17-19 L nt, /1+/3

Aug. 14-16 B ca, 2+4

Sept. 11-13 B ec. 18-20

Alcoa

April 3-5

Aug. 28-30

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

Apr. 23 May 14 Jun. 11

Jul. 16 Aug. 13 Sep. 10

Oct. 15 Nov. 12 Dec. 17

Kingsport

Sep. 24

Alcoa

Apr. 2

Aug. 27

3300 Backflow Prevention Assembly Repair Class

Fee: \$125 - CEU's: 6 hours

Murfreesboro

May 24

Sep. 27

Fleming Training Center Notice

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

Basic Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro

Apr. 1-3

Jun. 26-28

Sep. 11-13

Nov. 20-22

Knoxville

Apr. 16-18

Aug. 28-30

Memphis

Jun. 5-7

Oct. 23-25

Chattanooga

Jul. 9

Jackson

Sep. 25-27

Kingsport

Oct. 9-11

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro

Apr. 5

Jun. 25

Sep. 10

Nov. 19

Sparta

Mar. 21

Knoxville

Apr. 15

Aug. 27

Memphis

Jun. 4

Oct. 22

Chattanooga

Jul. 9

Kingsport

Oct. 8

Jackson

Sep. 24

Brentwood

Mar. 26

TAUD Backflow Troubleshooting & Advanced Testing
Dates TBD

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.



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TBPA Board Meeting Update - January 9, 2019

- **Treasurer's report:**
Account Balance \$7,303.73
- **TBPA 2019 Conference: TBD**
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 check out our new facebook page. Thank you to Bill Jennings for setting this up.

<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 - April 3rd, 2019

Old Business:

The Board voted to host a one day conference to be held on Oct. 11th in Murfreesboro, TN. Exact location TBA.

Possible speakers to include:

1. Health Department
2. Enforcement of Testers
3. Ben Rodriguez
4. Fire Service Contractor
5. Backflow Direct
6. Kent Bowman

New Business:

National ABPA Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, UT April 15th – 17th.

ABPA Membership online form is not working correctly. Please use the physical ABPA Membership Form included on Page 2 of this newsletter if needed. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

TAUD Expo to be held May 16th in Lebanon.

Abbie Woodson to be named editor of the newsletter.

Not official minutes



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A Message from Our President

Greetings Members!

I hope everyone is looking forward to spring along with some warmer and dryer weather.

On behalf of the Board, I invite you to make plans to attend TBPA's 2019 Annual Conference. Conference will be held at the Marriott in Murfreesboro on October 11th. This year, the board has decided to try something different. The Conference will be a 1 day event instead of traditionally 2 days. Our hope is that this will help with busy schedules allowing more members to attend. Plans for speakers and presentations are in the works and the event will be loaded with technical & educational aspects of the backflow industry. Stay tuned to your email and TBPA website for updates and Conference agenda. I look forward to seeing you there!

Feel free to contact a board member if you have a question about the conference or need help with the registration/renewal process. Thank all of you for the work you do each day to support the mission of this Association.

When renewing your membership through ABPA, please pay close attention and be sure to select that you are also a TN Chapter member or wish to become one. It has come to our attention that there may be an error in the renewal/registration process.

The TBPA board strives to maintain accurate records and keep an account of all active Chapter members. This information helps us keep in contact and share Chapter updates to our members. If you have contact information that has changed or needs updating, please contact Director of Membership, Michael Robeson at mrobeson@musfiber.net or by phone 423-317-6316. Michael works diligently to reach out and keep the membership updated. Thank you Michael for all you do.

-Bradley Tomlin
President, TBPA

Middle Tennessee News

Greetings from Middle Tennessee! It has been a very rainy winter here in Middle Tennessee. I hope everyone stayed safe from flooding. Now that spring is upon us it is time to start thinking about getting irrigation systems up and running.

Hopefully everyone winterized their system this past season to protect it from freezing. Spring startup is the perfect time to get irrigation backflows tested to avoid the summer heat. I hope everyone will be able to join us at this year's conference in Murfreesboro on October 11th, 2019. All the details are on the TBPA website. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

-David P. Risner
Middle TN Director, TBPA

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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.

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Mid Americ Marketing (Watts / Ames /Febco)

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

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Roger Crane
Instrument Technician

East Tennessee News

I hope everyone has had a great winter and, like me, is looking forward to spring! As homeowners and commercial businesses get their irrigation systems up and running for the new season, let's hope that each system has been winterized and air gapped!

I had a conversation a few months ago with a fairly new certified tester that really got my attention. He told me that a long time certified tester had instructed him to always make the relief valve dump before he started to test a backflow assembly in order to cut down on failures of the relief valve opening point. My immediate reaction in 3 words: NO NOPE NEVER!! Nobody likes to fail a backflow assembly, but we have to remember why we test backflows.... To protect the utility's water supply. As we move into this new season, let's keep this at the forefront of our minds.

As a reminder, always remember flush the inlet pipe before putting it back on the backflow assembly. This will clear any debris out of the line to prevent it from getting on the #1 check and, if bad enough, the relief valve and the #2 check. Also, be on the lookout for new installs that may have been put in during fall or winter by contractors or homeowners that might not have been reported to the utility. Make sure each one meets all state and local utility requirements.

Challenge: Can you find the 3 issues with the new install in this picture? Answers to follow.



1. Top backflow has hose bib in wye strainer.
2. The pvc pipe on the relief valve does not have an air gap.
3. Bottom backflow have hose bib in wye strainer.

I am planning to host another backflow repair class this coming fall for the TBPA and I would like to have input from the members concerning which manufacturer you would prefer: Apollo, Febco, Watts, or Wilkins. Please call or email me with your choices by June 1st, and I will try my best to secure the one the members want. I plan to host one repair class a year and I will rotate each manufacturer after the first class. Since it has been a few years since we have offered one class a year, I would love your feedback for the first class! I hope to have most if not all the info in the summer newsletter.

Have a great and safe spring!

kentbowman@comcast.net
(865) 258-2800

-Kent Bowman
East TN Director, TBPA

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

Cross Connection Awareness Day

Cross connection awareness day at MLGW in Memphis was a huge success with over 200 testers attending and several vendors. Among attendance were A.R.I., Fleming Training Center, Mueller, TBPA, TAUD, Site One Landscaping, Memphis Fire Services, American Backflow Products, Mid-American Marketing, Inc., and Memphis and Shelby County Code Enforcement. There were classes to attend by TAUD, Mid America Marketing, A. R. I., and Central Sales. Some provided CEU credits with the State of Tennessee. Lunch and desert was provided for a donation to the United Way Foundation. Thank you to David Wright and MLGW for a successful day!



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 New Facebook Page!

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

ABPA Harrington / Arthur Memorial Scholarship

2019 - 2020 Essay Contest Topic: TBA

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 \$1,000 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