

# Tennessee Backflow News

Summer 2021



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

July 7, 2021

Teleconference

10 am CST

Email David Wright  
for call invite:  
[dwright@mlgw.org](mailto:dwright@mlgw.org)

## Upcoming Events

**TBPA Conference  
decision July  
TBPA meeting**

**ABPA events  
calendar  
[https://  
www.abpa.org/  
events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.abpa.org/events/event_list.asp)**

## INSIDE

TN Training Calendar .....3  
Board Meeting Update.....5  
Section News .....6,7

## 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

Hello Members of the TBPA,

I would hope that all of you are still staying safe and no one has been sick with this virus situation that we are currently fighting as a country and world. It seems to me that as a whole, the US is on the upward swing for getting back to normal, whatever normal may end up being in the future.

Well, it's summertime now and that means that irrigation systems are on running wide open. That poses another reason to keep testing those backflow devices and ensuring they are working properly to protect the water we drink.

The TBPA is currently working on details in hopes to have our annual conference again this Fall in Gatlinburg, depending on the current virus situation continuing to be on the mend. So, keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for up to date information.

A question for all our members- is there something that the TBPA can do to help our members with information, training, etc. to make your membership worth retaining and to entice more members to join our association? We want to keep our current members interested, informed and educated! We have been talking about having repair classes again, which will be free to members, to help with more education on backflow devices and how they work. If you have any input, please let us know by email or social media.

I want to thank each one of you for being a member of the TBPA and your help in the pursuit of keeping our water clean and safe from any and all possible contaminations. Remember, this is your association, and we all need to work to make this a great organization to be a part of.

Sincerely,  
Bill Jennings, TBPA President

# TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
Bradley Tomlin Past President	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7531 btomlin@jaxenergy.com	731-422-7221
Bill Jennings President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
Jared Gowan Vice President	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7347 jgowan@jaxenergy.com	
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	
Frank Snyder ABPA President	Snyder Testing Pleasanton, TX	830-399-3431 snyder75@karnesec.net	

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  
6672 S 1570 W  
West Jordan, UT 84084

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**  
**6672 S 1570 W**  
**West Jordan, UT 84084**

*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/](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/fleming/). Written registration and 30 days notice is required for the following classes:

## 2103 Cross Connection Control Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days • Class Fee: \$335

*(full time employees of public water systems fee is \$60)*

### **Murfreesboro**

### **Alcoa**

Jul. 14-16 Oct. 13-15

Sep. 28-30

Aug. 18-20 Nov. 17-19

Sep. 15-17 Dec. 1-3

Dec. 15-17

## 3102 Cross Connection Control Renewal

Duration: 1 day • Class Fee: \$170 *(full time employees of public water systems fee is \$60)*

### **Murfreesboro**

### **Alcoa**

Jul. 13 Sep. 14

Oct. 1

Aug. 17 Oct. 12

Nov. 16

Nov. 30

Dec. 14

### **Fleming Training Center Notice**

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

**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](http://www.taud.org) or contact Tonia Pass at (615) 900-1000 or [ToniaPass@taud.org](mailto:ToniaPass@taud.org).

## Basic Cross Connection Class

### **Murfreesboro**

### **Memphis**

### **Jackson**

Sep. 8-10

Oct. 6-8

Sep. 22-24

Nov. 17-19

### **Kingsport**

Oct 20-22

### **Knoxville**

Aug. 25-27

### **Chattanooga**

Jul. 7-9

## Renewal Cross Connection Class

### **Murfreesboro**

### **Memphis**

### **Kingsport**

Sept. 7

Oct. 5

Oct. 19

Nov. 16

### **Chattanooga**

Jul. 6

### **Jackson**

Sep. 21

### **Knoxville**

Aug. 24

**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](mailto: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](mailto:kitty.banks@amwater.com).



**Lloyd Rainey**  
[lloyd@midamericamktg.com](mailto: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](http://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

Jason Fox Tim Hulan

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

**Brad Stinnett**  
President

[BACKFLOWSPECIALTY@COMCAST.NET](mailto: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](mailto:backflowtester@gmail.com)

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



# TBPA Board Meeting Update - April 7, 2021

- **Treasurer's report:**

Account Balance \$8636.27

**Membership:** The board discussed how to increase membership. TBPA is down to 45 members. Board discussed advertising through ABPA and other chapters. Kathy was going to reach out to VA to see what they do to increase membership. It is down in all chapters.

**Old Business:** Conference- are we going to have it in October or not? The board discussed if people would be able to attend or not due to travel restrictions. Also they discussed low membership and if it would be worth having conference. The board discussed having a virtual conference or having a virtual and in person at the same time but worried that no one would show up to the in person portion of the conference. One thought was to maybe record conference on zoom to get attendance numbers up. People forget about you if you don't have conference. The board decided to wait until July meeting to make the final decision on the conference. North Carolina is having Rural Water Conference in person.

**New Business:**

Alabama wants to start a chapter.

Kent is not going to have a repair class in the fall. Bill talked about possibly having one in Brentwood in the spring at the library.

ABPA wants donation for scholarship fund instead of silent auction due to the fact they are having conference virtually.

Bill is going to see if he can attend TAUD Expo and run booth for TBPA. He is going to see if Wayne Osborne wants to run booth with him. May 20th is the Expo. He will get with Brent if he is going.

Watt's National Backflow Day August 16th

- **Web site:** Ryan and Michael are continuing to make updates to the TBPA web site. Thank you Ryan and Michael 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:**  
All newsletters are being posted to our website. If you would prefer a physical copy, please contact a board member. Please direct any questions regarding changes or adjustments to editor, Kim Pritchett, [kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com](mailto:kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com)
- **Next Board meeting:**  
Teleconference - July 7 10am CST, email David Wright [dwright@mlgw.org](mailto:dwright@mlgw.org) for meeting invite. All members are welcome.

## 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

**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](http://www.taud.org) 615-900-1000



**TAUD  
Training Station**  
*Keeping you on track!*

# East Tennessee News

I hope everyone had a great spring! Wow, didn't we get the summer heat in a hurry? Once again, I will not be doing a repair class this fall. I know covid has slowed down but I want everyone to feel 100% comfortable and would hate for anyone to chance getting covid and/or possibly taking it home to loved ones. Hopefully, we can have a class in 2022.

I have ran into a few things in the past couple weeks that I thought should be brought to everyone's attention. Recently, I had to do some repairs and the homeowners told me what they were told was wrong with the backflow devices. I thought it best to test them myself before I repaired them. One backflow device I was told failed because the #2 shutoff did not hold. However, when I tested it, the #1 leaked check leaked down and the #2 shutoff held tight. If I would have put a new shutoff valve on, it would have been a more expensive repair that was not needed. I was told the other backflow device failed because the #2 check valve leaked on back pressure. When I tested it, the #2 check valve did leak on back pressure but, also the #1 check valve leaked down on the setup. I am SURE I have made mistakes, as we are all human, but I try to double check myself when I do fail one. I hear from time to time how many backflow devices people test a day. This is a good reminder that it is not a race of how many you can test in a day. It is a service you provide to make sure the potable water is safe for everyone to drink.

Another issue that I ran into is the isolation and containment installations. We all know the height is 12" - 60" from floor to center line of the assembly and I ran into a new install on a few isolation assemblies that were 10-12 ft. Since it is an isolation device, the utility does not want to get involved with this issue since they do not test them. (Reach out to the local utility and see if they will get involved first though.) Then this becomes an issue between the tester, plumber and whomever owns the building. So even if you are one who doesn't test the isolation backflow devices, you need to make everyone aware of the height issue because someone will end up on a ladder testing it!

I hope everyone can get out and enjoy the summer with your family and friends this year ! Stay safe !!

Kent Bowman  
East TN Director of the TBPA

## Cross Connection -TDEC INFORMATION

Please remember your TDEC Cross Connection testing/evaluation certificate of backflow devices has to be renewed every 3 years. If you need to find your expiration date or if you need to know if a new tester is certified in TN, TDEC now has the below links on their website to help. Class are offered at the *Fleming Training Center* in Murfreesboro, TN (<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/fleming-training-center/ftc-redirect/schedule-of-classes---seminars.html>) and at different cities in TN by *TAUD* (<https://ams.taud.org/Training/StartPage.aspx?div=ListAll>).

*For active backflow prevention assembly testers:*

[https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/pls/enf\\_reports/f?p=205:6:.....](https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/pls/enf_reports/f?p=205:6:.....)

*For inactive backflow prevention assembly testers:*

[https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/pls/enf\\_reports/f?p=205:7:.....](https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/pls/enf_reports/f?p=205:7:.....)

Also, here is a link to the USC Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research List of approved backflow prevention assemblies- <http://fccchr.usc.edu/list.html>  
(this link was taken from TDEC's website <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/fleming-training-center/ftc-redirect/cross-connection.html> )

# Middle Tennessee News

Greetings from Middle Tennessee! I hope everyone had a safe and happy spring.

During the summer months, it's important to stay safe. So, for those of you who test devices during these hot summer days, please remember to be careful in the heat, stay hydrated and be familiar with the warning signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion can include: fever higher than 104 degrees, excessive thirst, nausea, fainting, cool and clammy skin, weakness, muscle aches, heavy sweating and dizziness.

If you or someone you know show signs of this condition, immediately seek medical attention.

Stay safe and have a great summer.

David Risner  
Middle Tennessee Director

*Your Complete Source for all Backflow Parts & Accessories*



**WEST COAST**

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

**CENTRAL**

SAN ANTONIO, TX  
Toll Free: (866) 318-0274  
Fax: (210) 451-0824  
Email: bdnfo@bavco.com

**EAST COAST**

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

## BOWMAN BACKFLOW

**Kent Bowman**

**Testing and Repair**

*Member of  
Tennessee Backflow Association  
TN State Certification #4572*

**865-258-2800**

# THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS

**BAVCO**

**TAUD**

**Backflow Specialty Co., Inc.**

**Bowman Backflow**

**Backflow Devices Testing & Repair Co.**

**Mid America Marketing, Inc**

**Fox Sales, Inc.**

**Safe-T-Cover**

**Astra Industrial Services, Inc.**

**Backflow Control**

**We would like to say a special "Thank You" to the Vendors that continue to support our association. The success of our association depends on you and we want you to know how much you are appreciated.**

*thank you  
so much!*



## BACKFLOW LINKS

For more backflow information check out the  
American Backflow web site: [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org)

Check Out Our Website!

[www.tnbackflow.com](http://www.tnbackflow.com)

Your Association working for safe  
drinking water in Tennessee

### Visit Our Facebook Page!

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

July 7th next qtrly meeting email David Wright  
[dwright@mlgw.org](mailto:dwright@mlgw.org) for call info.

Any member is welcome to call into the quarterly meetings  
Hopefully soon the meetings will be in person again.



# TBPA

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