

Tennessee Backflow News

Winter 2025



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Last meetings minutes attached below - January Meeting

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Board Meetings:
April 9th
July 9th
September 24th (conference)

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Letter from the President

A Note from the President

Well winter has now arrived and brought us all the cold weather that I personally do not care for and I'm sure that I am not alone with those feelings too. And with cold freezing temp comes with the occasional frozen backflow preventer's. And here at our water service area, we can tell you who did not winterize their irrigation in the fall. And those who do not have a freeze protection (i.e. insulated enclosures and/or heat tape devices) on their other backflow devices that are outside like domestic and fire lines. I thought to myself that there must be other ways out there that would keep these devices from freezing and causing permanent damage to backflow to where it needs replaced with a new one.

So, I went on the lookout for something and I found a couple of things that would help those who either forget to winterize or don't have an electrical source nearby for a heat tape to wrap around the backflow. The first thing that I found in my Google search was a Wilkins ZWFR freeze relief valve and it automatically opens at 35°F to discharge near freezing water from the backflow device, drawing warmer supply water through the valve until closing when the temperature reaches 40°F. You can find more information on this one at <https://www.zurn.com/products/water-control/backflow-accessories/zwfr>

The next thing I found was a Watts Smart & Connected Wi-Fi Freeze Alert kit. Users can receive alerts via Wi-Fi or connect to irrigation controllers with temperature inputs, as well as building management systems (BMS), using the built-in switched output. It monitors temps to send alerts to remind users that the device is in danger of freezing and can cause damage to the backflow. You can find info on this one at <https://www.watts.com/freeze-detection?qh=freeze>

If the temperature doesn't get too cold for too long, then an insulated enclosure would be a great start for those devices that are outside in the weather. And one of the sponsors of the TBPA that is located right here in Tennessee is Saf-T-Cover. And you can find an enclosure to serve your needs at <https://www.safe-t-cover.com/backflow-freeze-protection> And these are just some quick suggestions to help fight the winter cold temps to protect the backflow devices to help us keep everyone in clean water everywhere.

I would like to also let all of you know that our conference will be in Gatlinburg, Sept. 25th and 26th at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Gatlinburg Resort. We have secured room rates for \$107.00 per night, which is a better rate than we had in Chattanooga recently. We are in the process of lining up speakers for this conference and welcome suggestions for what you would like to hear about on topics that may interest you. We hope that it will be a great one again this year and so make sure you plan to be there to join us.

And just to add one last note to keep those on your mind that are still dealing with the flooding and crazy weather that affected so many last fall and some this year already in 2025. We hope that things start to settle down and this coming year will be quieter moving forward on the weather side of things. As I myself, I am ready for some warmer weather and getting back outside to enjoy it. 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.

Thank you,
Bill Jennings
TBPA President

TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
Bill Jennings President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
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Michael Robeson Director-At-Large / Membership	Morristown Utility Morristown, TN	423-317-6316 mrobeson@musfiber.net	
TBD Director, Middle TN			
TBD Director, East TN			
Brent Ogles Director-At-Large	TAUD	615-900-1011 brentogles@taud.org	615-898-8283
Troy Baird ABPA President	Bac-Flo Unlimited	210-698-0411 troy@speackbackflow.com	
Kathy Riley ABPA Vice President	Charlotte Water	980-226-4304 kathy.riley@charloettenc.gov	
Blake Anderson International Past President	West Bountiful City	801-381-1869 banderson@wbcity.org	
Joshua Legg ABPA Region 3 Director	City of Concord	704-920-5352 leggj@concordnc.gov	

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:
Catie Williams - Jackson Energy Authority
731-422-7405

TBPA / ABPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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American Backflow Prevention Association



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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 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 TAUD (615)898-8283.

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:

Cross Connection Basic (Classroom)

Class Fee: \$370 member \$390 non-member - class time: 8:30am-4pm

Clarksville March 19th
Murfreesboro - April 2nd
Knoxville - April 9th

Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days Class Fee: \$335
March 5th-7th
March 26th-28th
April 9th-11th

Cross Connection Renewal

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$225 member \$260 non-member - class time: 8:30am-4pm

Clarksville - March 18th
Murfreesboro - April 1st
Knoxville - April 8th

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$170

March 11th
March 12th
April 15th

Fleming Training Center Notice

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

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 Lonnie Coomes at (901) 368-0900 or lonniec@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



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lloyd@midamericamktg.com

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Instrument Technician

Backflow Preventer Drew Cook

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Memphis TN 38120

901-315-4860

backflowpreventerdrewcook@gmail.com

Offering basic certification classes as well as renewal classes for Backflow certification

Monday through Friday. 5:30-9:30 PM

West Tennessee News

Hello members of the TBPA,

I hope that everyone is doing well. I hope everyone's systems made it through the arctic cold with minimal damage this year. I know we are continuing to see a boom in growth. We now have over 40K water connections in our system. Most of the growth is residential but we are getting some commercial and industrial as well.

The board has already been working on having some informative speakers at the conference this year. The conference will be going back to Gatlinburg this year for those that may not have been aware of that.

I look forward to meeting more of you over the next couple of years and I encourage each of you to encourage people to become members for the future of our association.

Jared Gowan, TBPA West TN Director

TBPA Board Meeting Update - January 15th 2025

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance **\$12,107.72** including savings **(\$5.00)**
- **Roll:** TEAMS MEETING ONLINE - Josh R., Sherry H., Davis R., Bill J., Brent O., Jared G., Catie W., and Briana B.

Old Business:

Issues with some of the backflow assembly parts

Gatlinburg determined as location for 2025 conference

Nominations discussed for the upcoming openings for East and Middle Tennessee directors for TBPA board

Award for non-members (utilities, companies, testers, etc.)

- **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, Catie Williams, cwilliams@jaxenergy.com
- **Next Board meeting:**
April 9th, 2025 at Brentwood Water office

New Business:

Be deciding/thinking on speakers for 2025 conference

Getting with aquarium in Gatlinburg for possible tour

National Conference in Arkansas May 5th-7th

Next meeting dates determined (see above on 1st page of newsletter to the left side)

Conference dates September 24th-26th 2025

Hotel set up and ready for reservations

Election for East and Middle TN

David to speak to someone about Middle TN position

THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS

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.

BAVCO

TAUD

Backflow Specialty Co., Inc.

Backflow Devices Testing & Repair Co.

Mid America Marketing (Watts / Ames /

Febco) Fox Sales, Inc.

Safe-T-Cover

Backflow Control

Astra Industrial Services, Inc.

Labtronx

*thank you
so much!*

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

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TBPA