

# 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

## DRINKING WATER SAFETY CONFERENCE

Florida Suncoast Chapter of the American Backflow Prevention Association

*P.O. Box 384, Largo, FL 33779*



**Friday, November 3, 2017 at Embassy Suites – Brandon, FL**

### Agenda

- 6:30 a.m. Registration, Exhibits & Outstanding Breakfast
- 7:45 a.m. “Welcome, Opening Remarks & Brief Business Meeting” (15 minutes)  
Kenneth P. Goergen, President ABPA Florida Suncoast Chapter, Technical Services Manager
- 8:00 a.m. “Backflow Prevention in Food Establishments” & “A Brief Update ABPA International” (60 Minutes)  
Peter McLaughlin, ABPA International Vice President, Manager of PWSB CCC Program
- 9:00 a.m. “Safety Not Only for Our Drinking Water, Also for our Valuable Employees” (50 minutes)  
Rodney Bolt and James K. Abaka, Risk Management Specialist, Pinellas County Government
- 9:50 a.m. “What’s in your water?” (50 minutes)  
Bina Nayak, PhD, Water Research Project Manager, Pinellas County Utilities
- 10:40 a.m. Vendor Presentations, Exhibits & Break (30 minutes)
- 11:10 a.m. “A History of Backflow” (50 minutes)  
Les O’Brien, Past International President of ABPA
- 12:00 p.m. General Information, Vendors & *Excellent Lunch* (60 minutes)
- 1:00 p.m. “Why We Test the Way We Do.” (50 minutes)  
Jim Purzycki, President, BAVCO, Inc.
- 1:50 p.m. Vendors & Afternoon Break (30 minutes)
- 2:20 p.m. “The History of Wastewater Treatment & The Pioneers Who Advanced the Industry” (50 min.)  
Christina Goodrich, Wastewater Treatment Manager, Dunn Water Facility, Pinellas County  
Ivy Drexler, PhD, Technical Project Coordinator-Southcross, Pinellas County Utilities
- 3:10 p.m. Closing Remarks, stamping for CEU’s & PDH’s & Drawings for Prizes (*MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN*)

CEUs 0.6 (For FL DEP Water Distribution & Water Plant Operators Licenses only)  
& PDHs 6.0 (For FL PE Licenses) FSAWWA approval # 05119911

Thank you for attending!

**Florida Suncoast Chapter 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Tradeshow**  
**Friday, November 3, 2017**  
**Presentation Title, Bios, Abstracts and Outlines**

**7:45 Presentation: Opening Remarks, Brief Business Meeting, ABPA FSC Current Activities**

**Presenter: KENNETH P. GOERGEN**

***Ken* received his Associates Degree, Engineering Concentration, from St. Pete College in Clearwater, Florida and his Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Natural Science/Biology Degree from the University of South Florida in Tampa. He is the Manager of the Technical Services Section with Pinellas County Utilities and has been in charge of the Backflow, Cross-Connection and Inspection Section since 1994. Prior to Ken's position with Pinellas County Utilities he was a Construction Administrator, Plans Examiner/Plumbing & Building Inspector and Construction Consultant. Ken holds licenses as a Florida General Contractor, Home Inspector and is a Certified Backflow Tester. Ken is an active member of the American Backflow Prevention Association and is the founder and current President of the Florida Suncoast Chapter of ABPA. He is the former Region 3 Director for the ABPA International.**

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**8:00 Presentation: "Backflow Prevention in Food Establishments" and "A Brief Update ABPA International"**

**Presenter: PETER MCLAUGHLIN**

***Peter* has been the Manager of Providence Water Supply Board, Cross-Connection Control Program for 20+ years. In 1997, He established the Rhode Island Backflow Prevention Association and has served as President of the Association for fifteen years. He worked in the water industry and cross connection control for twenty-three years. He has been a certified backflow tester since 1998 and he is a proctor for the ABPA as well as being certified in backflow repair and cross connection surveying. He served as Region 1 Director for the past six years. Currently, he is the International Vice-President of the American Backflow Prevention Association and serves on the Board of Cross-Connection Control and Certification for New England Water Works.**

**Abstract:**

**The topic for discussion is Backflow Protection in Food Establishments. We will be discussing some real-life situations that occurred and how they could have been prevented as well as other likely sources for contamination. What to look for and where to look.**

**OUTLINE:**

1. Why is backflow prevention necessary in food establishments?
  2. How can cross connections occur in such a regulated industry?
  3. Real occurrences in food establishments and possible prevention
  4. Sources of contamination
  5. The food service survey: What and Where?
  6. ABPA International update
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**9:00 Presentation: “Safety: Not Only for our Drinking Water, Also for our Valuable Employees!”**

**Presenters: RODNEY BOLT and JAMES K. ABAKA**

***Rodney* has an Associates of Arts Degree from the University of South Carolina and has a Professional Certification in Construction. Rodney has been with Pinellas County since April 2005 where he started as a Solid Waste Specialist in the Household Electronic and Chemical Section in the Solid Waste Department. He transferred to the Risk Management Department as a Risk Management Specialist in June 2005 and works in the Safety and Environmental Health Section. His main responsibilities are to ensure the safety and health of County Departments using the OSHA Standards as our guide, develop safe programs, perform safety training, perform hazardous materials and waste training, manage the county Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators Program, oversee the county air quality programs, perform safety and hazardous materials inspections and investigations throughout the County. He provides recommendations to many departments with various operations and occupation throughout the County.**

**Prior to coming to work for Pinellas County Government, he served 21 years in the Marine Corps as an Aviation Hydraulics Mechanic and retired as a Gunnery Sergeant. Rodney held other positions in the Marine Corps such as Safety Specialist, Hazardous Materials, Hazardous and Waste Technician. Rodney supervised numerous Marines of different grades throughout his career. He has served in various places around the world such as Djibouti, Africa; Iwakuni, Japan; Al Jaber, Kuwait; Eltoro, Ca and Beaufort, SC to name a few. His extracurricular activities include wood working and playing guitar as well as visiting with his granddaughter. He is married to his wife Erin and they have two children and one granddaughter.**

***James* is an environmental safety and health safety specialist who works for the Pinellas County Government in the Risk Management Department in Clearwater, Florida. He received his bachelor’s degree in Management from the University of Massachusetts in 1986. He worked at the Meridien Hotel, Boston - a four-star/four-diamond subsidiary company of the French airline, Air France. He was the Security Officer, a job which entailed workplace safety as well. After nearly a**

decade in the security position at the hotel, he was promoted to the position of Assistant Security Director, and several years later he was promoted as the Director of Safety and Security.

In 2005, James was employed by the Pinellas County Government in the Risk Management Department as a Safety Specialist – a position he still holds. In addition to his regular workplace environmental health and safety responsibilities, James is also an Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) certified outreach trainer. He holds a Professional Certificate in General Industry Standards (PCG).

James is a naturalized US citizen, and he belongs to a small close-knit family. He is a news buff who keeps abreast with world events. He also enjoys classical and contemporary jazz music and football.

### Abstract

We all are dedicated workers and want to do the job correctly to provide the safest and cleanest drinking water. Our water purveyors and private contractors are well trained to treat the water, test backflow prevention assemblies, install pipes and meters, treat our customers fairly and all of the other items needed to provide clean drinking water. Unfortunately, sometimes we don't keep safety in our daily required routines. An injured worker not only loses wages but causes an overall loss for the purveyor or the company. We all know of a worker who died on the job because of some, most likely preventable, accident. The worst case is if a call needs to be made to your family that you won't be returning home. We will discuss the good and logical reasons for jobsite and yard safety, some OSHA requirements and just plain common sense.

### OUTLINE:

1. Who cares about safety and why?
2. I've been doing this a long time and I'm always safe
3. Each person is responsible for their own safety, the other guy is not my concern (really?)
4. Why do I need to keep training when I have so much work?
5. Photos: not so safe and doing the right thing
6. These new workers just don't care
7. Precautions and regulations

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9:50 Presentation: "What's In Your Water?!" – Pathogen Intrusion & Prevalence in the Distribution System & Premise Plumbing.

Presenter: BINA NAYAK, PHD

*Bina* received her doctoral degree in Biology from the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL in 2009. She worked at USF as a postdoctoral scholar for 6 years and taught several Biology courses including Cell Biology, Applied & Environmental

**Microbiology, Cell Metabolism and Ecology of Infectious Disease. She has 10 peer-reviewed publications as author and co-author on topics related to solid waste, wastewater and environmental waters. She has been working as a Water Research Project Manager for Pinellas County Utilities for the last 2 years. She manages drinking water, wastewater and reclaimed water projects conducted by universities, government agencies and engineering firms and funded by grants from the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AWWARF), Water Research Foundation (WRF), Water Environment & Research Foundation (WE&RF), National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**

**Bina actively participates in promoting water related education by volunteering on the FSAWWA Region IV Youth Education Committee. She serves as the Vice Chair of the FSAWWA Contaminants Committee and the Vice Chair of the AWWA Organisms in Water Committee.**

**Abstract:**

**The integrity of the distribution system is vital to protecting public health by ensuring the safety of drinking water. In spite of multiple barriers, pathogen entry into the distribution system can be attributed to construction or repair, cross connections, water treatment, storage facilities and several other factors. Detection, identification and timely intervention are crucial to reducing the impact of pathogen intrusion. Proactive approaches such as routine water quality monitoring and preventive maintenance of the distribution system are recommended to protect the system from microbial contamination. An unintended consequence of the current water treatment and conservation strategies is the emergence of opportunistic premise plumbing pathogens (OPPPs). Although utilities have minimal or no control over premise plumbing, promoting customer awareness of conditions that promote opportunistic pathogen proliferation and mitigation procedures can safeguard the community and reduce the economic burden associated with infections caused by OPPPs. There is an increasing need for targeted research efforts into assessing public health risks from contamination by intrusion in both the distribution system and premise plumbing environments.**

**OUTLINE:**

- Introduction to waterborne pathogens**
- Distribution system versus premise plumbing**
- Routes of entry of pathogens**
- Potential risk to public health**
- Detection methods**
- Pathogen intrusion monitoring and control strategies**

## **11:10 Presentation: "A History of Backflow"**

**Presenter: LES O'BRIEN**

**Les was the Senior Training Specialist in the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Florida's TREEO Center. Les has been an instructor for backflow prevention and cross-connection control courses in Florida since 1983 and has been responsible for training and certifying instructors of backflow prevention tester training programs throughout the world. He is a Past President of the [American Backflow Prevention Association](#) (1989-90). Les and his family created the story line for the comic/coloring book, "*Buster Backflow*." He owns "Loben Backflow Consulting."**

### **Abstract:**

**The need for backflow protection was realized many years ago. By understanding the history, we can continue to improve our backflow prevention methods.**

### **OUTLINE:**

- 1. The need for backflow protection**
  - 2. Early patents**
  - 3. First regulations**
  - 4. The movers and shakers of the industry**
  - 5. Some of the first manufacturers**
  - 6. The formation of FCCC & HR**
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## **1:00 Presentation: "Why We Test the Way We Do"**

**Presenter: JIM PURZYCKI**

**Jim is with BAVCO, a wholesale distributor of backflow prevention assembly repair parts. Jim holds two Bachelor of Science degrees from CA State University at Long Beach in Management and Finance. Jim has been a licensed backflow prevention assembly tester and plumber for the last 44 years and spent the first 10 years of his career working as a backflow prevention assembly tester and repair technician. The last 34 years he has served as Manager of BAVCO. In his duties, he has provided training and education in the development, implementation and running of Cross Connection Control Programs across the United States. Jim sits on many committees for several national organizations including: American Backflow Prevention Association - ABPA as well as many regional Cross Connection Control groups around the country.**

### **Abstract:**

**Testers learn to perform the field test in a tester school. They go on to pass a certification exam so they can be certified to test backflow prevention**

assemblies. Too often, the tester memorizes the steps but fails to understand what is happening inside the assembly when they perform the field test. This presentation will show why we test in a specific order, what is happening inside the assembly and why the way we recover the data is so important.

**OUTLINE:**

1. Tester schooling and certification is important
  2. Just knowing the proper steps is not enough
  3. Understanding the inner workings of the backflow prevention assembly
  4. Testing order is important
  5. Data, the key to a successful test
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**2:20 Presentation: “The History of Wastewater Treatment & The Pioneers Who Advanced the Industry”**

**Presenters: IVY DREXLER, PHD and CHRISTINA GOODRICH**

*Ivy* is the Technical Project Coordinator for the South Cross Bayou AWRF in Pinellas County, FL. Her main duties include coordinating capital improvement projects with the County Engineering offices, vendors, and on-site plant staff, managing regulatory compliance documents and reports, and expanding the educational programming at the facility. Ivy earned a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the University of San Francisco, and a Master’s and Ph.D. in Engineering Science from the University of South Florida. Her research was focused on emerging technologies for resource recovery from wastewater, with a focus on algae-based treatment. Ivy also holds a Graduate Certificate in Adult Education and is committed to community outreach for the water and wastewater industries.

*Christina* has earned an AA degree in Natural Science from St. Pete College and a bachelor of Professional Studies from Barry University. She has a Waste Water Operator’s License # 0013725A, has trained in Quality Management in the Public Sector, has completed the Incident Command Systems 100-700 and has completed the High Performance Organization Workshop.

**Teaching Experience:** Wastewater “C” Instructor for Barry University and HCC, Job Corps of Pinellas, Federally certified (L449) Incident Command Systems Trainer and Volunteer Instructor for FW&PCOA Region 4.

**Professional/Project Experience:** Currently Manager of the Dunn Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) in Pinellas County, former Technical Project Coordinator for South Cross Bayou WRF, Sludge Processing Improvements, UV Disinfectant System and Related Improvements, North Train Aeration Blowers

**Upgrade Project and the Headworks Bar Screen Upgrades. Former Utility Maintenance Manager for Pasco County Utilities (5 years)**

**Abstract:**

**From waste disposal and public health to environmental protection and resource recovery, the history of the advancement of wastewater treatment technologies and practices as well as its driving forces has been far from stagnant. Presently the industry now faces new and different driving factors and emerging trends such as the concerns of parabens and micro plastics, recovering energy from wastewater, extracting additional nutrients, and potable reuse. These challenges call on the industry to be creative, to innovate, and to educate. Who will be our future pioneers for the industry? What will be their legacy? How can we learn from the past to plan for the future?**

**OUTLINE:**

- I. Overview**
  - a. Go over presentation outline**
  - b. Brief description of why we chose this topic**
- II. Ancient Rome:**
- III. Dark ages**
- IV. 19<sup>th</sup> century – Public Health driven**
- V. 20<sup>th</sup> Century – Environmental Impact and Regulatory driven**
- VI. 21<sup>st</sup> Century – The future and beyond**