13th 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 8, 2019 at Embassy Suites – Brandon, FL

Agenda

6:30 a.m.	Registration, Exhibits & Outstanding Breakfast
7:45 a.m.	"Welcome, Opening Remarks, Brief Business Meeting & Report from National ABPA *(30 minutes)* Kenneth P. Goergen, President ABPA Florida Suncoast Chapter, Technical Services Manager Kathy Riley, ABPA Region 3 Director
8:15 a.m.	"A Backflow Incident: How It Should Be Handled" *(50 minutes)* Jim Purzycki, President, BAVCO, Inc.
9:05 a.m.	"Why Backflow Prevention Assemblies Require Proper Installation and Regular Testing" (50 Mins.) Mike Lueck, PE, Mid-West Instrument
9:55 a.m.	"PFAS: Non-stick Chemicals with a Sticky Problem" *(50 minutes)* Bina Nayak, PhD, Water Research Project Manager, Pinellas County Utilities
10:45 a.m.	Vendor Presentations, Exhibits & Break *(30 minutes)*
11:15 a.m.	"Pollutants in Our Watershed Affect Us All" *(50 minutes)* Ryan Ryczek, Environmental Specialist II, Pinellas County
12:05 p.m.	General Information, Vendors & *Excellent Lunch* *(65 minutes)*
1:10 p.m.	"Safety: Not Only for Our Drinking Water, Also for Our Valuable Employees" *(50 minutes)* James K. Abaka and Scott Rintz, Risk Management Specialists, Pinellas County Government
2:00 p.m.	Vendors & Afternoon Break *(30 minutes)*
2:30 p.m.	"Asset Management Software: Its Impact on Daily Operations & Lessons Learned" (*50 minutes)* Steven D. Allen, Operations Manager, Pinellas County Utilities, Florida
3:20 p.m.	Closing Remarks, Stamping for CEU's & PDH's & Drawings for Prizes *(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)*

Thank you for attending!

Florida Suncoast Chapter 13th Annual Conference & Tradeshow
Friday, November 8, 2019
Presentation Title, Bios, Abstracts and Outlines

7:45 **Presentation: "Opening Remarks, Brief Business Meeting, ABPA FSC Current Activities" (30 minutes)**

Presenter: Ken Goergen

Bio: ***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 (inactive), 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.**

Presenter: Kathy Riley

Bio: ***Kathy*** **has worked over 24 years in Backflow Division with the City of Charlotte. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts and Science Degree in Public Administration from San Diego State University. She is a past president of the Carolina's Chapter of the ABPA. For several years she has branched out into the Public Outreach Program, providing tours to hundreds of school age children, educating them on safe drinking water. She is also an active member of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). When she is not a working at the City of Charlotte or being a soccer mom, you can find her involved with family activities with her husband and 3 kids. Kathy is the Region 3 Director for the international American Backflow Prevention Association.**

Abstract

Ken **will conduct a brief business meeting, introduce the current officers of the Florida Suncoast Chapter of the ABPA and he will request nominations for new officers.** ***Kathy*** **will present information about the current state of cross connection control in the USA, the upcoming International ABPA conference and changes in the national organization.**

8:15 **Presentation: "A Backflow Incident, How it Should be Handled" (50 Minutes)**

Presenter: Jim Purzycki

Bio: ***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. He 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:

When a backflow incident happens, there is a time delay before the properly trained people are on the site. The water users and many others in contact with the water system may not recognize the backflow condition for the emergency it truly is. This presentation will present several scenarios that could take place after a backflow incident happens and how the situation may escalate if not properly handled and in the end present how it should be handled.

Outline:

1. **Discover the backflow incident**
2. **Backflow incident: An emergency when the drinking water is compromised**
3. **Who should be notified and what to expect?**
4. **Proper way to resolve the situation**

9:05 **Presentation: "Why Backflow Prevention Assemblies Require Proper Installation and Regular Testing" (50 minutes)**

Presenter: Mike Lueck

Bio: ***Mike*** **received his BSME in 1982 from the University of Michigan; He worked at General Dynamics Land Systems – 1982-1984 – Reliability Engineer; He works at Mid-West Instrument and started in 1984; he is still there and is the – President. Mike has been active in cross-connection control and backflow prevention with ABPA, ASSE, BPMA, State of Michigan and the UA since 1984 and is currently a member of the ABPA Certification committee and ASSE Cross Connection Control Technical Committee.**

Awards include:

- **2018 ABPA Meritorious Service Award for outstanding achievement in the field of Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control**
- **2000 ABPA Golden Eagle Award Recipient recognizing individuals who "have gone above and beyond the call of duty in representing the membership of the ABPA"**
- **2014 & 2002 Recipient of the Michigan Chapter of ASSE Cross Connection Control Person of the Year.**
- **2016 Recipient of the ASSE Michigan Chapter Manufacturer Representative of the Year.**
- **2013 Vistage Michigan CE 15 Soaring Eagle**
- **Certificate of Achievement for work on ASME B40.6 – Pressure Limiter Valves**
- **Awarded U.S. Patent 7,059,194 B1 - Pressure Fault Device**

Published Articles

- **ABPA News**
- **Drinking Water and Backflow Prevention**
- **Plumbing Standards (A publication of ASSE)**
- **Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractor**
- **New Zealand Plumbers Journal**
- **Flow Control**

Abstract:

Why Backflow Prevention Assemblies Require Installation and Regular Testing – The presentation will demonstrate why backflow prevention assemblies should be installed and regularly tested.

Outline: (Lueck continued)

- **Backflow incidents that have occurred throughout the USA where backflow prevention assemblies were not installed, failed, altered, removed and improperly installed**
- **Photographic evidence of failed, altered, removed and improperly installed backflow prevention assemblies**
- **Documented evidence of illness/injuries resulting from presented backflow incidents**
- **References for the information presented**

9:55 **Presentation: "PFAS: Non-stick Chemicals with a Sticky Problem" (50 minutes)**

Presenter: Bina Nayak

Bio: ***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:
"Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances" (PFAS) are man-made chemicals used in the production of common household products such as non-stick cookware, waterproof fabrics, take-out food containers, paints, polishes and fire-fighting foam since the 1940s. They are ubiquitous and extremely resistant to environmental degradation – hence labeled "forever chemicals". According to a CDC report, PFAS have been detected in the blood of 97% of Americans and can, even at low concentrations, cause health effects that include altered metabolic functions, liver toxicity and obesity. Currently there are no federal legal standards regulating PFAS in drinking water. The decision to regulate these chemicals is hindered by the sheer number (~4700) of these chemicals,

lack of detection methods especially in matrices other than drinking water and inadequate treatment technologies.

Outline:
- **Introduction to PFAS**
- **Impact on human health & the environment**
- **Direction of current regulation**
- **Detection methods & treatment technologies**
- **Future considerations**

11:15 **Presentation: "Pollutants in Our Watershed Affect Us All" (50 Minutes)**

Presenter: Ryan Ryczek

Bio: ***Ryan*** **is an Environmental Specialist II with Pinellas County. He has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Health and assists the County with maintaining compliance with the State stormwater NPDES permit by performing duties such as, water quality monitoring, stormwater pollution education and enforcement, landscape maintenance and fertilizer education and enforcement. He worked in Watershed Protection for eleven years. Prior to that he was an Environmental Health Specialist at Health Departments in North Carolina and Florida for five years.**

Abstract:

There are diverse sources of pollution that occur in our watersheds that affect our drinking water. Some of which are becoming greater issues as our population increases, increasing the amount of pollutants. Regional, weather, and geology play a role in the pollutants of concern. Some pollutants were not known to be an issue but are coming to light as testing capabilities or years of contamination are exposing them. Going forward it will be critical to identify these pollutant sources to prevent contamination and improve treatment capabilities to deal with them to ensure safe drinking water at the quantity that will be needed.

Outline:
- **What is a "Watershed"?**
- **Why are they important to our environment and our drinking water?**
- **Pollutants -defined and discussion**
- **Preventing contamination of the watershed**
- **What needs to be done to help ensure safe drinking water?**

1:10 **Presentation: "Safety: Not Only for Our Drinking Water. Also, for Our Valuable Employees" (50 minutes)**

Presenters: James Abaka and Scott Rintz

Bio: ***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.

Bio: ***Scott*** **currently works as an Environmental Safety and Health Safety Specialist in the Risk Management Department for Pinellas County Government, Clearwater, Florida.**

Scott started his career in the US Army, and after his discharge received an AS degree in Computer Electronics Technology. In 1989, Scott started working for a local Aerospace company that manufactured laser optics and assemblies. It was here that Scott quickly started moving up through the ranks from technician to supervisor and then manufacturing engineer.

During the 25 plus years in Aerospace he held many roles including managing the environmental health and safety programs, conducting safety and production training, radiation safety officer and facility/equipment maintenance coordinator.

In 2016, Scott joined Pinellas County Government in the Risk Management Department as a Safety Specialist. His work schedule includes Safety related training, First aid and CPR ,inspecting jobsites and facilities throughout Pinellas County Government Scott is an Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) certified outreach trainer in Construction, General

Industry and Disaster site worker . He currently holds a Professional Certificates in General Industry Standards (PCG) and Construction Industry Standards (PCC).

On a personal note, Scott loves the outdoors, camping and traveling. He also is a volunteer with Pasco Sheriff's Office Jeep search and Rescue Unit. He utilizes is expertise to assist in the community through training and offering his services in times of need.

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

2:30 **Presentation: "Asset Management Software: Its Impact on Daily Operations and Lessons Learned from Decades of Use" (50 minutes)**

Presenter: Steven D. Allen

Bio: **Advanced Education: *1982-1983* Adelphi University; Garden City, NY,**
***1983-1985* Suffolk Community College; Selden, NY**

***Steven* is the Operations Manager for Pinellas County Utilities and he started his career with Pinellas County in 1996. His other duties for Pinellas County, Fl**

have included Work Planning Coordinator, First Response Emergency Dispatcher (creating work orders; service area determinations related to in-coming calls; liaison between Customer Service and The Repair & Maintenance Divisions of the Department sewer/water distribution and collection system emergency repairs; customer call response and resolution of service complaint); First Response {Emergency}, Meter Technician maintaining and repairing ¾" through 12" water meters. Also, for three years he worked at Hughes Supply in Clearwater, FL performing: dispatching; warehouse operations; inventory control; supervision of work crews; plumbing sales; customer order quotes and performing stock transfers.

Abstract:

The divide between field technicians and managers creates deficiencies in accurate data collection. "Oh no, here comes another software to learn…" Lessons learned from asset management software require engagement by all staffers from the office to the field technicians. Training is an ongoing process; quality assurance is everyone's responsibility and the effective upkeep of the data ensures proper asset management.

Outline:

1. **What did we have before our last asset management software [history]?**
2. **How did our legacy system evolve with our needs?**
3. **What impact did its use have on our core responsibilities?**
4. **Where did we misuse the software?**
5. **How is the new software being adapted to our needs?**
6. **Long term impacts to our systems.**
7. **The takeaway….**