

In This Issue: FEBT Online Survey Closing Soon	2
Company Store Item of the Month	2
Woodford Bros. Finish, Now It's FEBT's Turn	3
Robertsdale Museum Doors and Displays	4
Board of Directors Nominations Update	5
Upcoming Events	6
FEBT Board Meeting Notes	6
March Fundraising Progress	7
<i>Trains</i> Magazine Features EBT, FEBT	8
Progress on Track and Combine 14 in March	9
Easter on the Rails	10



The Carpentery Shop sits stabilized and awaiting new board and batten cladding on March 13, 2021. The stabilization was an FEBT-funded project, and the remaining restoration work will be performed by FEBT members during work sessions. – Eric Knepp photo

FEBT ONLINE SURVEY CLOSING SOON

Given the recent successes of both FEBT and the East Broad Top Railroad, we wanted to survey FEBT members **and the general public**. Your feedback will help us understand if we are meeting our commitments both to our members and to the railroad. Please help us on our mission by completing this anonymous 15-20 minute survey. Please visit febt.org/survey to participate. Your input is a highly valued asset to the Friends of the East Broad Top. Please respond to the survey by April 15, 2021 when the survey closes, so that your voice can be heard. – Nick Ozorak

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

Sale on “EBT Rebirth” Tee Shirts!

High quality, very soft Hanes shirts. FEBT logo on front left side, photo on back celebrating the rebirth of the EBT. Two styles: "Good for the Next 100 Years!" and "Voice of Experience". Two colors (ash and white) for "Good for the Next 100 Years!." "Voice of Experience comes only in ash color. Sizes from small to XXL. Limited quantities!



“Good” ash back



“Good” white back



“Voice” ash back



Typical front

Tee shirts are \$12.95 for S,M,L XL; \$14.95 for XXL. Sorry; there are no member discounts at this low, low price. Shipping is \$5.00 for one plus \$3.00 for each additional shirt.

Pennsylvania residents, please add 6% sales tax to shipping charge only; no tax on shirts themselves. The most convenient way to order is through the FEBT Company Store website at the URL store.FEBT.org. We accept PayPal, credit cards, checks, and money orders. You may also contact the store by paper mail at FEBT Company Store, 19 W. Vandevender Street, Mount Union, PA 17066.

TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

North of Rockhill, track restoration work is now complete to north of Horne's Valley, 2.4 miles from the Orbisonia depot.

WOODFORD BROS. FINISH, NOW IT'S FEBT'S TURN

The Carpentry Shop structure in the Rockhill yard has undergone a drastic change in appearance this year. The East Broad Top Foundation coordinated a structure stabilization project with Woodford Bros. Inc. of Apulia Station, NY to perform the work. This work was funded primarily by a grant that the FEBT issued to the EBT Foundation in October 2020 in the amount of \$86,000. The stabilization portion of the project was completed on February 25, 2021, but that is not the entirety of the endeavor. An FEBT crew spent the March work weekend installing new boards on the exterior. The previous cladding no longer reached all the way to the bottom once the building had been raised. Additional siding will need to be installed, battens are to be applied, windows are to be replaced, and then a new coat of paint on the exterior of the building is likely to follow. – Doug Davenport



*Top: The Carpentry Shop leans in disrepair in the fall of 2020. – Brad Esposito photo
Bottom: FEBT members installed new board siding during the March 2021 work session, after the stabilization had been completed. – Eric Knepp photo*

ROBERTSDALE MUSEUM DOORS AND DISPLAYS

Some things work, and some do not...

So, we went up to install the door “closers” and found that they don’t fit. So now we have to decide if we will take apart the door frames, modify them, reinstall them, repaint them and then install the closers we have – OR – just buy different closers that will fit. Guess which I’d vote for? Crew leader Bill Reynolds, with advice from Charlie Wootton, will make that decision.

What’s a door closer? Thanks for asking, I didn’t know either. That’s the name for the shock absorber sort of thing that controls how quickly a door slams shut behind you. It also helps control a door should a gust of wind grab it and try to rip it open.



FEBT Museum display about common carrier day freight products. – Andy Van Scyoc photo

On the other hand, the glass is actually more than half full. The weekend of March 20-21, Bill Adams, Andy and Marjorie Van Scyoc, and Scarlett Wirt spent two days working on the information panels that will be a major component of the museum. One advantage of this electronic newsletter is that you can zoom in on the pictures. Doing so will reveal that the panels are titled; “Gateway to the World”, “Moving the Coal”, “Common Carrier”, and one that covers “Refractory Brick Industry”, “McKelvey Brothers”, and “Tanning Industry”.

What a great place this will be! We still need folks to volunteer to host so the museum can be open this tourist season. Hosts need no special skills, only enthusiasm for the EBT. As you can see, the display panels offer lots of information about the EBT and the coal mines. Hosts do not need to memorize all of this. In fact, hosting will give you the opportunity to learn more about your favorite railroad! Contact me for details. My email is febt@aol.com. – Pete Clarke



FEBT Museum displays in progress in Robertsdale. – Andy Van Scyoc photos

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS UPDATE

The nominating period for the FEBT Board of Directors has closed. The candidates have been chosen and ballots will be sent out soon. Please be on the lookout for the voting form to come in your mail soon. Four seats are up for election/re-election this year. Thanks to those who supplied nominations. – *Randy Lehrian*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
April 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 15	RTM	Members Day
May 22, 23	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 22, 23	EBT	The EBT Goes to War!: A Living History Event
May 24-28	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week
June 12, 13	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 31, August 1	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 21, 22	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 20-24	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week
October 8, 9, 10	FEBT	Annual Reunion
November 6, 7	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session

Hosts: FEBT Friends of the East Broad Top
 EBT East Broad Top Railroad
 RTM Rockhill Trolley Museum

www.febt.org

www.eastbroadtop.com

www.rockhilltrolley.org



FEBT track crew members fill the cribs between recently replaced ties with ballast on the ladder track during the March work session. – Wayne Wanzor photo

FEBT BOARD MEETING NOTES

In 2021, your FEBT Board of Directors is meeting monthly to conduct the business of the organization and develop and provide strategic direction. Highlights of the March 3rd meeting of the Board are:

- Authorized the expenditure of up to \$50,000 as a grant to the Foundation for Woodford Brothers to structurally repair the Store House. This is the first of several projects you have supported through the 2021 Fundraising Campaign.
- Reviewed and considered collaborative efforts with the EBT Foundation for a joint archive.
- Reviewed 2021 Board nominees and election procedures. Ballots should be in the mail sometime in April.

- Andy Van Scyoc

MARCH FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

The March reporting period saw FEBT receive 32 donations, totaling \$7777.00. That brings the organization to having 402 separate donations during the 2021 campaign, which began in October 2021. Stay tuned for news about how the monies collected are being used to achieve FEBT's mission of preserving, restoring, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad.

There are several ways to donate. Donations can be made online at <https://febt.org/donate/> using the Company Store portion of the website, which accepts credit cards and PayPal payment methods to contribute. Donations may also be made by mailing a check, payable to FEBT, to:

FEBT Fundraising Treasurer
C/O Ray Davidowski
P.O Box 81
Sarver, PA 16055

2021 Fundraising Goal:

\$78,000

March Donations:

\$7,777.00

Campaign Progress:

\$126,406.67 – 162.1%

March Donors*:

Roberta Ballard	Douglas O. Blount	Richard Boone	Alexander Bowser
Tim Bristow	James Campbell	Wade Colyer	Ralph & Donna Davidson
Al DiCenso	Bradley Dobbins	Douglas E. Fink	Louis E. Fisher
Timothy Himmelberger	Thomas Horvath	Dave Johnson	Victor V. Kidd
Doug Langdon	Michael Lynes	Garret McCabe	John F. McCullagh
Norfolk Southern Foundation		Bill Payne	Joseph Rizzotti
Ian Rudd	Michaelene Sarar	Thomas Sliviak	Chris Spina
Jon Surprise	The Van Horn Foundation		Patrick J. Yough

In Memory of William L. Grove:
Chuck Lammando

* - All donors listed represent donations received between February 22, 2021 and March 21, 2021. Donations received after March 21 will be reported in the May 2021 issue due to press time constraints.

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

TRAINS MAGAZINE FEATURES EBT, FEBT

TRAINS magazine has just released their May 2021 issue. It is available first to subscribers via their new digital website. The May issue's cover story is the rebirth of the East Broad Top.

In eight photo-packed pages, author (and FEBT member) Dan Cupper tells the story of the wonderful events of the past year. The article then offers an exciting look to the future, as Dan lets EBT Foundation leaders talk about what is in store for locomotives, rolling stock, operations, and more.

Dan covers the restoration and fund-raising work of the Friends of the EBT in detail. His account of decades of FEBT work highlights the key role the Friends have played in preserving the railroad.

This article is a don't-miss for EBT fans. – Lee Rainey

Mikado Number 15 is shown under steam on the main line on the May 2021 issue of Trains Magazine – Trains Magazine photo

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New use for auto racks
Report card on Batory

Restarting a legend

Rebirth of the East Broad Top

Tourist railroads vs. COVID-19

Wisconsin tourist line success

PLUS
Maine narrow gauge: just add snow
Train-watching: Alexandria, Va.

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1523

PROGRESS ON TRACK AND COMBINE 14 IN MARCH

The March work session saw progress on three fronts. You read above about the work done to the Carpentry Shop. FEBT members installed new boards on the side of the stabilized structure during the March work session. Other areas of work included trackwork in several areas, and work on Combine 14.



FEBT members have been invited to work side-by-side with full time East Broad Top Foundation employees during the week to assist in main line trackwork, and several members have donated their time towards this effort. With the combined forces of FEBT and EBTF, 3/10th of a mile of track north of McMullen's Summit has been spiked into place. Work week crews have also done some initial work putting in steel temporary ties on the main line south of Rockhill to aide in stabilizing the speeder track for future operations. FEBT trackwork crews on the work weekends have been focused on areas around the yard; replacing ties, spiking in rail, and spreading ballast as required.

Work continued on the interior of Combine 14. Clerestory work is making progress. New window sashes are in the process of being fabricated. The door between the baggage and passenger compartments is receiving a thorough rebuild, correcting the patchwork look created by several smaller repairs over the 100+ years of the car's lifespan. – *Doug Davenport*



Left: The current view north from McMullen's Summit, with a cleared right-of-way, new ties, and fresh spikes installed. – Gene Tucker photo

Right: New clerestory panels grace the ceiling inside Combine 14. – Eric Knepp photo

EASTER ON THE RAILS

The East Broad Top Railroad, combined with the Rockhill Trolley Museum, ran an Easter event on March 27th. This is an annual event that the trolley museum has run for several years, but this was the first time that trains ran with the trolleys as well. FEBT members were asked to assist the railroad during the event, and a number of volunteers hopped on the opportunity to help, filling a variety of roles to make the event a success. Trains ran from the Orbisonia Station north to the grade crossing at McMullen's Summit, and back to Rockhill. The RTM crews then carried those passengers to Blacklog Narrows and back aboard several trolley cars from a variety of vintages. – *Doug Davenport*



Left: The M-7 sits on the Rockhill wye under a bright moon the night of Easter on the Rails. – Joel Salomon photo
Below: A new window sash for Combine 14 is being assembled – Eric Knepp photo



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the East Broad Top Newsletter is a monthly digital-only periodical. Started in 2020, it is intended to keep members and donors apprised of what the organization has done and will be doing. The FEBT Newsletter is distributed by email to the current list of members and donors, and is a privilege of contributing to the FEBT's cause of preserving, restoring, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad for current and future generations. The editor can be contacted at Newsletter@febt.org. Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25th of each month. Events occurring after the 25th, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.