
Volume 2, Issue 6

June 2021

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The emptying of the Storehouse in Rockhill was a focus of the FEBT Work Week. It is scheduled to be stabilized this summer, as a project funded by the FEBT 2021 Fundraising Campaign. – Doug Davenport

FEBT ROBERTSDALE MUSEUM COMPLEX: READY FOR PRIME TIME!!

After many years of minimal work and one year of frantic work, the Robertsdale Museum is ready to open to the public. It will be open on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, June through October, to correspond with the railroad's schedule. Note that this is a change from our original plan. The hours will be from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Recent Activity:

On May 15th a large crew of volunteers (Bill Reynolds, Bill Adams, Gene Tucker, Scarlett Wirt, David Dillow, Ted Illjes, Mike Hoover, Dave Dietz, Victor Booth, Matthew Wall, Deane Mellander, Craig Musser, Pam Musser, Jack Demnyan, Pete and Jane Clarke) opened the shipping container, which has been behind the Old Post Office for decades. Its contents were transferred to either a 30-yard roll-off dumpster for disposal, or to the freight section of the station for posterity. Founding Father Deane Mellander helped us assure that no valuable or historic items were discarded. To those who questioned the need for that big of a roll-off, check out the photo. We gathered for a cookout lunch. The shelves from the container were modified to fit in the station allowing items to be stored in a somewhat orderly manner. All told, that crew put in 87 ½ hours of work that day. The roll-off has been removed and the empty container will be removed before opening day. A scrap dealer paid \$305 for the scrap iron and aluminum.



Left: The contents of shipping container on the morning of Dumpster Day. – Scarlett Wirt photo

Right: The shipping container has an empty feeling, but the crew who helped empty it does not. – Matt Wall photo

The Point-of-Sale (POS) system for the museum gift shop is up and running. Our undying gratitude goes to Dave Phillips for his skill and patience with this. The ability to accept credit cards greatly enhances sales. Much of the merchandise in the shop were extra cost items from FEBT reunions; however, there are some unique Robertsdale Museum items, too. With only a few exceptions, items in the gift shop cannot be ordered from the online FEBT Company Store. So why not stop by?



The Robertsdale Dumpster Day crew poses for a picture after completing the cleanout of the shipping container behind the FEBT Museum building on May 15, 2021 – Scarlett Wirt photo

Bill Adams, Scarlett Wirt, Andy Van Scyoc, and Marjorie Van Scyoc set up and (mostly) completed the informational panels for the museum. These allow visitors to walk around and read about the EBT and the coal industry. There are future plans to add electronic narration to the panels. A display of tools and other items has been moved over from the station. The museum half of the first floor actually looks like a museum now!

A contract to install a new roof on the station has been signed. Although professionals will do the roof, volunteers will install the soffits and trim.

Training Days:

On May 19th and 23rd, eight volunteers took part in Museum Host Training. This entailed learning the POS system including PayPal Here and the route of the walking tour. Everyone got a turn setting up the system and doing a mock sale. Some real sales were made as well. As in the general population, some are better at digital stuff than others (although everyone did fine). A massive Standard Operating Procedures manual has been created and will remain at the sales desk. Jane and Pete Clarke will assist each host on their first day.

The walking tour is an adventure each time. When we first started mapping it out, it was winter, so the sites were more visible. Now it is kind of a challenge. Thanks to Ron Pearson and Ric Case for providing their original tour map. We've simplified and shortened it, so it is a bit easier and shorter. Again, the map and notes will be on-hand at the museum for the hosts. Please note that the Foundation (which owns the railroad and with whom we are friends) has made it clear that no one is to wander back there without a trained host. Each tour will take about an hour depending on how many questions are asked.

Be sure to allocate time to visit our neighbors, the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum. They really have a lot of great information and displays (including models of the mines by our own Ron Pearson).

We have a great group of hosts: Rickie Rourke, Chris Walker, Stephen Jackson, Curt Miller, Roy Burnham, Julie Rockwell, and Curtis Rockwell. Oh, and Jane and Pete. If you would like to join this esteemed group, please contact Pete at febt@aol.com.



Bill Adams stands among the displays inside the FEBT Museum in Robertsdale. – Scarlett Wirt photo

What's left for us to do:

There is always cleaning to do, of course. Unlike the old days, not much new dust is being created, but somehow the floors still get dirty. We need to install shelves in the bathroom to keep the floor clear for ADA compliance. Wade Woodcock is in the process of installing LED lighting in the sales cabinets. Charlie Wootton will cover all open electrical boxes and get the building through the occupancy test. We have a plan to improve the freight section doors on the station, and also plans for a “track” system that should allow us to get the handcar out. We hope to offer handcar rides in the future.

What's left for you to do:

We need help designing the shirts and hats that we'll sell. If this is a job that interests you, please contact Pete Clarke (febt@aol.com). Do you wish that the museum could be open more often? Contact Pete if you are interested in becoming a host.

Visit your Robertsdale Museum. It's a great place to learn about the EBT, where it ran, why it ran, what it did, when it did it, and then take a hike (hey, we mean that in a nice way; we'll go with you). – *Jane Clarke*



FEBT'S MAY IS A BUSY MONTH IN ROCKHILL

May 2021 has been a very active month for the Friends of the East Broad Top. Much was accomplished over the 10 working days on the schedule for the month. Some volunteers donated their time outside of the schedule. Track work, spring cleaning, organization, window replacements, and a number of other activities saw progress over the past month.

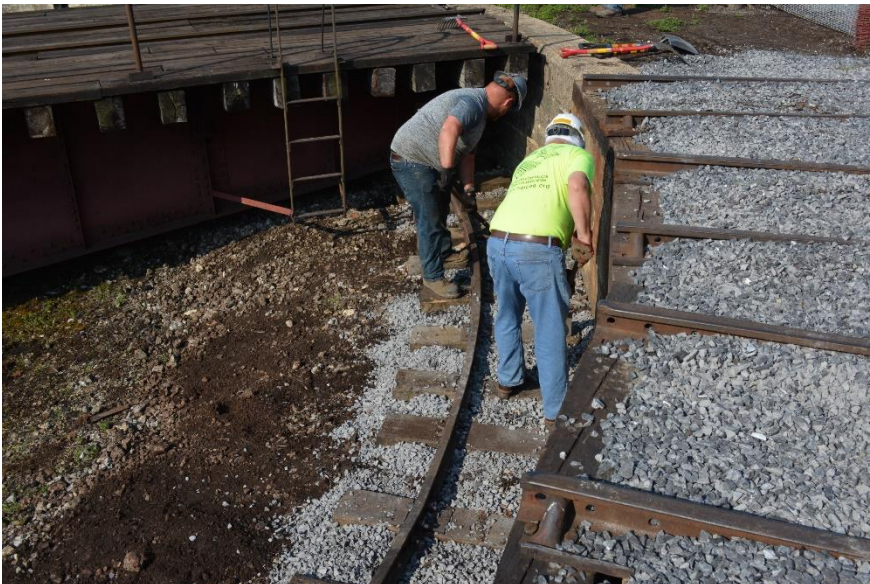
Track Work:

A big contribution to the reopening of the railroad has been the FEBT Track Crew. This month, this group of volunteers assisted the East Broad Top Foundation employees with completing tie replacement, spiking, gauging, and ballasting of the main line from Horne's Valley to the south end of the S-curve. For those readers who know the line well, it may have been noticed that a key out-of-service feature was skipped over in that previous sentence. Yes, the Runk Road bridge is now back in service! After being hit by a boom truck in May 2020, the bridge was structurally repaired by Thornberry Construction of West Sunbury, PA during the closing days of April and the first few days of May. Once structural repairs were completed and some drainage improved, the track crews worked to install new bridge



A southbound view of the restored trackage across the Runk Road bridge and long fill on May 11, 2021. Ballast work would be completed over the following 10 days. – Craig Confair photo

timbers and reinstall the track to a point a short distance beyond the bridge. This series of steps, along with the track and grade rehabilitation efforts over the last year, have now allowed the railroad to operate work trains between the Rockhill yard and Colgate Grove for the first time since at least May 3, 2020 when the bridge damage was discovered. More can be found in the May 14th *Trains Magazine* article written by FEBT member Dan Cupper.



Track work also occurred around the turntable, literally. During the work week, an FEBT crew replaced the ties and ballast on the ring rail in the turntable pit, which will allow for smoother movement of the manually operated apparatus. The combined FEBT/EBTF track crews also made progress on restoring the wye at Colgate Grove. With regular operations resuming within two weeks of this publication, these steps are important ones in ensuring safe railroad operations for the passengers, crews, and equipment of the excursion trains. – Doug Davenport

FEBT Track Crew works on the turntable ring rail rejuvenation during the May Work Week – Doug Davenport photo

Storehouse:

The restoration of the EBT Storehouse made major progress during the FEBT May Work Week. FEBT volunteers worked for seven straight days to empty the contents of Storehouse 1 in preparation for structural restoration by the Woodford Bros. in July. Volunteer efforts were augmented with great help from EBT Foundation employees. This project required labeling all bins and floor locations, emptying over 700 bins containing approximately 25 tons of hardware and parts into labeled containers, and moving all material to a storage container. By the end of the work week the building was emptied of material and was ready for disassembly of the first floor bins and the lean-to structure between the stone house and the store house. This next work needs to be completed prior to the Woodford Brother's arrival and will be conducted during the June work weekend. – *Dave Bulman*



Before and after photos of bins withing the Storehouse. It is not an optical illusion that the bins are bowed, it is a sign of how much the building has sunken over time, and why this project is necessary. – Dave Bulman photos

Window Repairs:

Over the course of the work week, eight volunteers worked on 13 window sashes. The work included removing sashes from windows, stripping off old glazing compound, replacing muntins and repairing rails and stiles as needed, removing broken glass, and installing new glass panes and glazing compound. The sashes receiving attention are from the Roundhouse, the recently raised Carpenter Shop, and the soon-to-be raised Storehouse.



Mike Wahler and Bill Adams glaze windows in the Blacksmith Shop. – Eric Knepp photo

Four sashes previously restored and painted were reinstalled in the Roundhouse's Stall 8 and in the Locomotive Shop track doors. Both are areas where EBTF crews are working on a daily basis. Overall, since 2002, FEBT volunteers have completed work on 288 of the 595 sashes in Rockhill Furnace (48.4%). In terms of panes of glass, that's 2,262 panes out of 4,609 on the property. – *Bill Adams*

Combine 14:

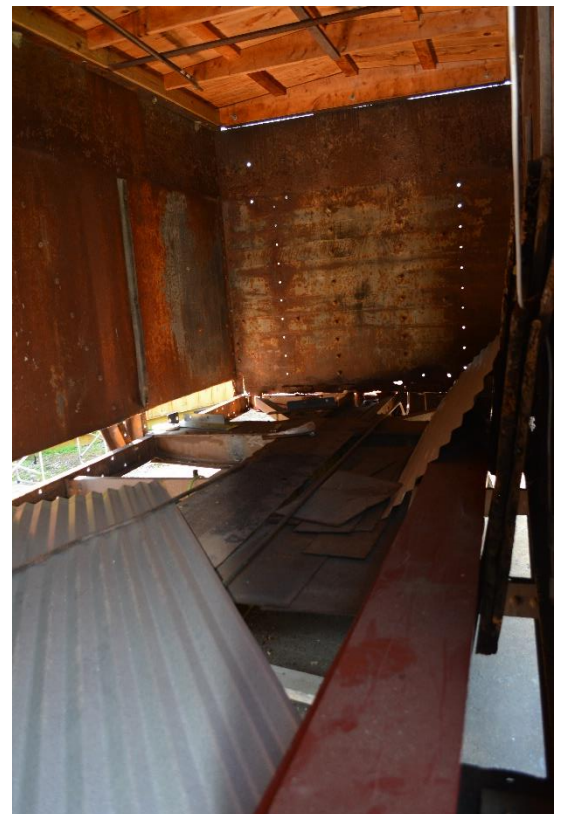
Woodwork continued on the interior of the car. The partition between the baggage and passenger sections is nearly complete. A lot of finish carpentry is still in the works in the reassembly phase of the car restoration. – *Doug Davenport*



The Combine 14 crew continues their efforts during the FEBT Work Week, rebuilding the partition and installing trim on the sills of the call. – Doug Davenport photos

Box Car 174:

Work replacing the wooden supports continued during the work week. This long term project will eventually yield a mobile work shop for the FEBT to support a multitude of potential future projects in the years to come. – *Doug Davenport*



The inside of this box car doesn't look like much yet, but it is in much better condition than when this project started a decade ago on a car with no roof. – Doug Davenport photo

FUNDRAISED DOLLARS GO INTO ACTION

Several FEBT-funded projects on the agenda for 2021 are moving along as intended:

As you read above, the Storehouse is scheduled to be stabilized in July by Woodford Bros of Apulia Station, NY. Work will continue on clearing the contents of the structure at the June work session.

A contract has been agreed to terms to replace the roof on the Robertsdale station building with Covert Roofing of Shirleysburg, PA. This work is scheduled to happen in August. The scope of work will include repairs to the sub-roof as well as replacing the metal cladding that is visible in the adjacent picture.



A project which was added to the list due to the amount of money fundraised in excess of the 2021 goal is the concrete slab for the Carpentry Shop. This work has been funded by a grant issued from the FEBT to the East Broad Top Foundation in the amount of \$12,000, as approved at the April Board of Directors' meeting. No timeline has been issued for the concrete, but the area has been prepped for the work to happen, so this work could begin at any time.



Left: The inside of the Carpentry Shop awaits a concrete floor. It is evident how far the building had sunk by the gap between the center wall and the floor.
Above: The Robertsdale station stands in the morning sun in May 2021, awaiting its roof replacement this summer.
– Doug Davenport photos

More great things are on the horizon, so please continue to look for updates here in the FEBT Newsletter. – Doug Davenport and Lee Rainey

MAY FUNDRAISING REPORT

The May 2021 reporting period brought in \$3,104.64 from 24 donations. The FEBT has now totaled over \$134,000 in donated funds during the 2021 Fundraising Campaign. As you read in the previous articles, the dollars received are being used to work on a variety of projects, both large and small. Each donation is greatly appreciated.

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

May Donations:

\$3,104.64

Campaign Progress:

\$134,603.31 – 172.6%

May Donors*:

Keith Allen
Douglas E. Fink
Christopher P. & Kathryn R. Jenkins
Eric Knepp
Richard Onorevole
Thomas Spangler

Robert Anthony
Thomas Glover
Keith Kreider
James Robinson

Alexander Bowser
Michael Hurlburt
Victor V. Kidd
Thomas Leister
Ralph Sheaffer

Bruce H. & Elizabeth Courter
Gary Jacobs
Bernard Kinlein
Garret McCabe
Christopher Simone

In Memory of Charles Rogers:
Robert C. & Margaret B. Wagoner

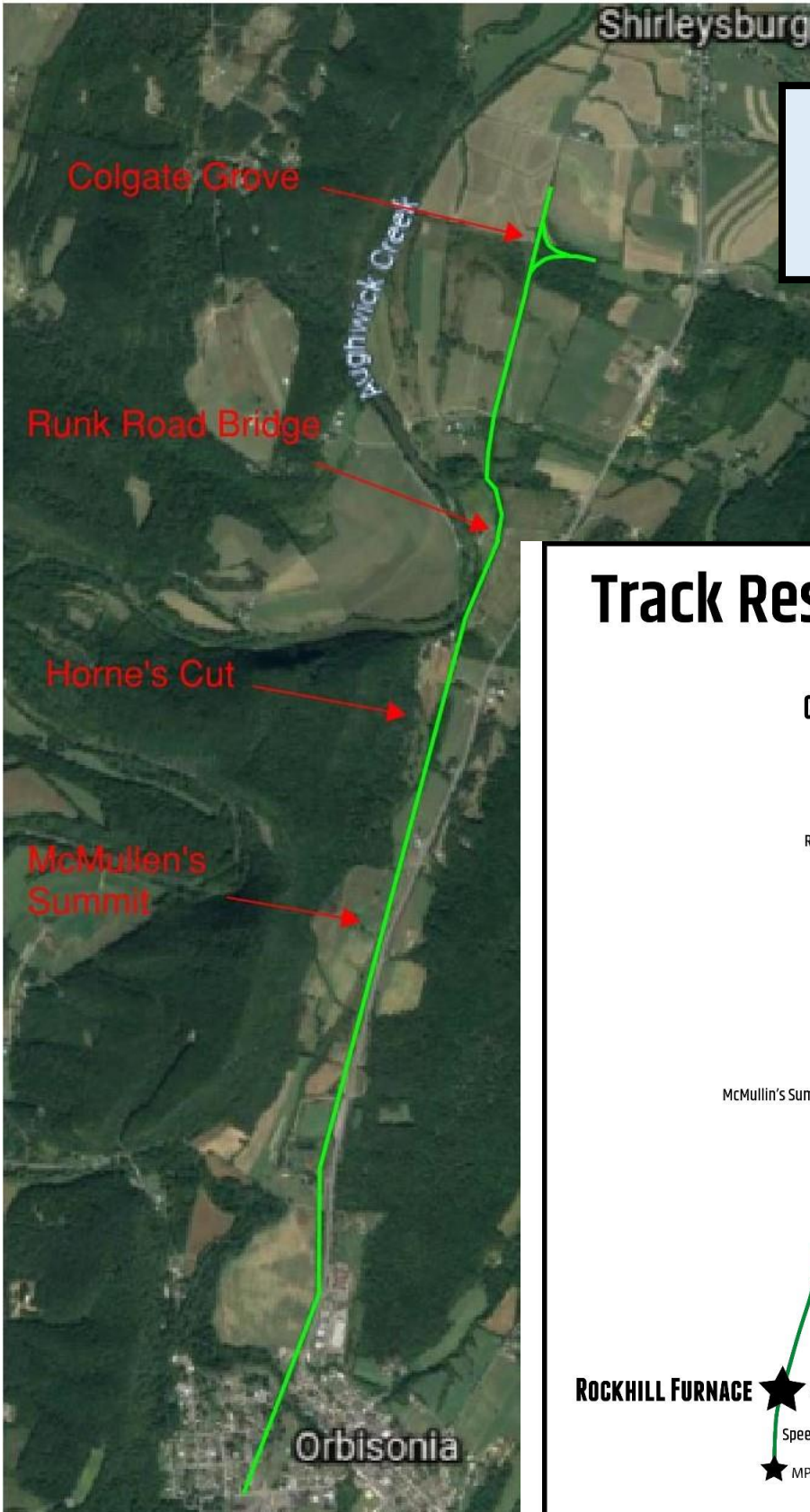
* - All donors listed represent donations received between April 22, 2021 and May 21, 2021. Donations received after May 21 will be reported in the July 2021 issue due to press time constraints.

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1568

TRACKWORK PROGRESS MAP

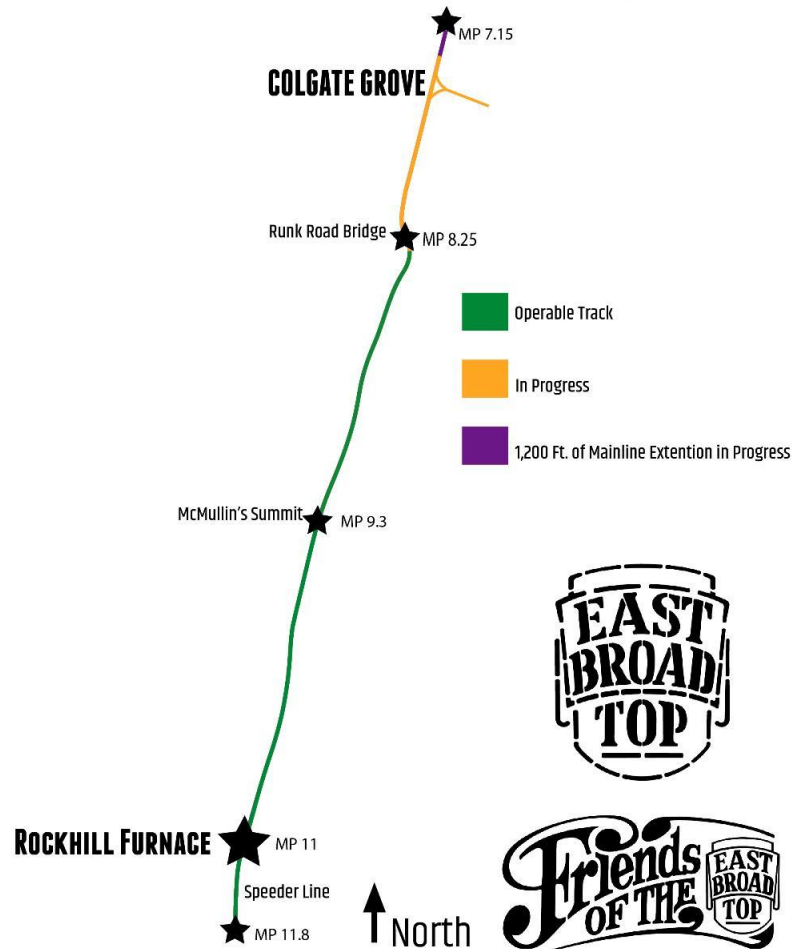


TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

North of Rockhill, track restoration work is now complete to just north of the Runk Road Bridge, 2.8 miles from the Orbisonia depot.

*Left: Map overlay by Doug Davenport
Below: Graphic by Jonathan Smith*

Track Restoration Progress





FEBT members relocate some rather thick (and heavy) threaded rods from near the Paint Shop to the Locomotive Shop to be used to adjust the tension on Coach 8. Charlie Wooten is the engine of this train, with Linn Moedinger as the caboose.
 – Doug Davenport photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
June 12, 13	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 26	EBT	First Responders' Day
July 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 31, August 1	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 12-15	EBT/RTM	Homecoming Celebration
August 21, 22	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 11, 12	EBT	Antique Traction Show
September 20-24	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week
October 8, 9, 10	FEBT	Annual Reunion
October 9	EBT	Fall Reunion
October 16, 17, 23, 24	EBT/RTM	Pumpkin Festival
November 6, 7	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 26, 27, 28	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 3-5, 10-12	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 4	EBT	Christmas Tree Train

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

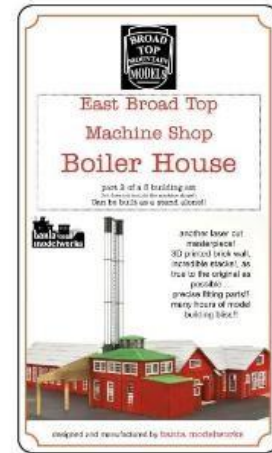
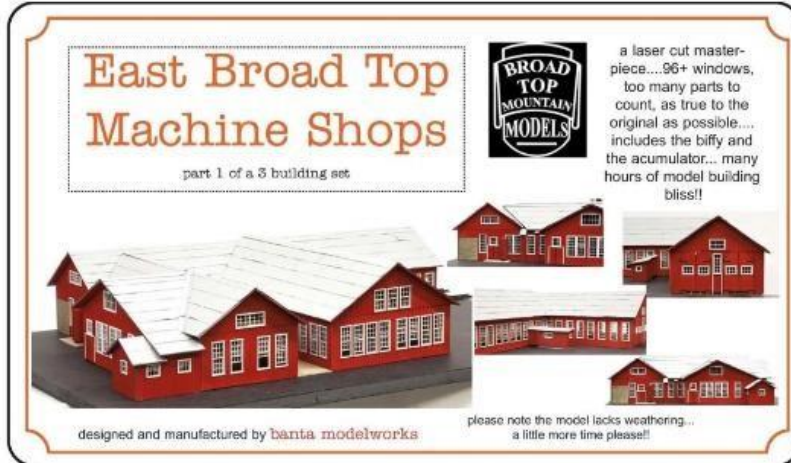
www.febt.org
www.eastbroadtop.com
www.rockhilltrolley.org

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

Purchase Broad Top Mountain Models

HO Scale East Broad Top Laser Cut Structure Kits

Through the FEBT Company Store! Car Shop next; More To Come!



Features: True to prototype as possible, can be built as a complex or stand alone structures for a freelance road, laser-cut floors, framing, walls, windows, battens, 3D printed parts, corrugated metal roofing material, and more!

Machine Shop \$280 Boiler House \$147 FEBT Members receive 15% discount!

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.