
Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2022

In This Issue: 2021 Was an Impactful Year for FEBT	2
December Fundraising Update	7
2022 Campaign Steams Past Goal in Just Three Months!	9
Upcoming Events	9
Company Store Item of the Month	10
Volunteer Profile: Eric Knepp	11
EBTRR Archives and Special Collections Program	12



Ryan Confair poses with the nearly complete deck on the south end of the Carpentry Shop just before Thanksgiving 2021. This deck will be the floor of the lean-to, which is being rebuilt following stabilization work to the structure earlier this year via an FEBT grant to the EBT Foundation. – Craig Confair photo

2021 WAS AN IMPACTFUL YEAR FOR FEBT

The Friends of the East Broad Top made a lot of strides over the course of 2021. As the East Broad Top Railroad ran a tourist train schedule for the first time in a decade, the FEBT was right alongside with its own operating schedule. FEBT volunteer hours and funds, side by side with the EBT Foundation, continued work on long term projects, stabilized buildings, and restored the main line to where it was before the 2011 shutdown. Many days of work sessions, two work week sessions, a continually operating museum, and numerous other activities highlighted a busy year in Rockhill, in Robertsdale, along the line, and other miscellaneous items. – *Doug Davenport*

Rockhill:

Numerous projects saw a great deal of progression around the Rockhill Yard throughout 2021. FEBT members contributed to this success on 38 scheduled workdays, and several additional unscheduled occasions. Repairs were made to the Freight Depot roof. FEBT funds provided the bulk of the funding for the stabilization of the Carpentry Shop, and then the funding for the concrete flooring within, as well as the reconstruction of the lean-to on the south end of the structure (to be completed in 2022).

Views of the Carpentry Shop from October 2020 and May 2021 show the impact of the work the Friends has done to preserve the Rockhill Shops Complex. Right: Lawrence Biemiller photo. Below: Doug Davenport photo



A great number of volunteers pitched in to organize, box up, and empty the contents of the north Storehouse during the May Work Week. The lean-to between the Storehouse and the Stone House was also emptied, and the lean-to razed. This process allowed for another FEBT-funded structure stabilization project to occur. After the contractor completed their work, a concrete floor was poured in both areas, and an FEBT crew rebuilt the doors. Now that there was a stable, secure building, all the contents were returned to their home. The lean-to reconstruction will follow in 2022.



The Storehouse, resting on its window sills in September 2020, and again in November 2021 after the stabilization work was completed and the new cladding installed. Left: FEBT collection. Right: Dave Bulman photo.

Work continued on several longer-term projects as well. Boxcar 174 saw additional steel work performed, with the intent of it becoming a mobile tool shed and machine shop to assist in a variety of projects down the line. Combine 14 woodwork is steadily progressing as reassembly of the car continues. The glazing crew continued to repair and replace numerous windows around the Shops Complex, which is an ongoing mission to keep the buildings weathertight. – Doug Davenport

Robertsdale:

39 days of activity in Robertsdale. That included 15 days the museum was open and 24 workdays. 38 different people helped in one way or another: 9 Museum Hosts, 2 2022 host trainees, 27 workers. Those workers put in 1,049 hours of on-site time (i.e., does not include travel time). That is equal to over 131 8-hour days, which is over 26 40-hour weeks. The gift shop produced nearly \$4,000 in sales and nearly \$900 in donations.

A list of major accomplishments includes:

- Museum opened!

- Gift shop established.

- Internet access established (including internet-based cell service.)

- Can accept credit card sales (actually, we prefer them.)

- Point of sale (POS) system built, tested, installed.

- Some (limited) ability to re-order stock. That may not seem big to you, but how do sales continue if we can't reorder stock? So, this is big.

- Several information panels done, including sound!

- Glass cabinets moved from the station to the Old PO (without breaking any glass!) and LED lights installed.

- Some used for gift shop displays, others will house exhibits of mine and RR relics.

- Timber Transfer* boxes emptied, and magazines sorted, stored in logical and labeled locations in cabinets on the second floor of the Old PO.

- Dangerous, hot, halogen track lights replaced with efficient, cool LED bulbs.

- Window shades installed.

Stock room and shelves established. Sorted storage system set up and stocked.
 All gift shop items inventoried and now tracked by the POS system.
 Bathroom shelving installed.
 The brush-cutting team cleared the right-of-way south to Mine #5 and beyond.
 Walking tour established.
 Walking tour guide manual created.
 Location markers and holders established for walking tour.
 Walkie-talkies purchased to allow contact with tour group.
 Cadre of (9) trained museum hosts established.
 Host instruction manual created (and updated again and again and again.)
 Way for host and workers to unlock door established.
 More work on doors done (will it ever end?)
 “Rack cards” designed so that we can advertise our museum at other spots.
 Ugly and expensive storage container emptied and removed. Valuable and historic items saved.
 Station roof replaced.
 Station roof fascia replaced and painted.
 Station freight doors redesigned and built to allow easier entry/exit of handcar.
 New handcar entry/exit system designed, built, and installed.
 “Good neighbor” policy put into action, museum open as part of “Free Museum Day” and cooperated with
 Robertsdale “Community Days” event. Cooperated with the Miners Museum on several items (and plan
 more).

Jobs started but not completed:

Looking into security system – quotes obtained.
 Looking into HVAC repair/replacement (for old PO) – quotes obtained.
 Archiving items donated to reading room. Setting policies and access policies.
 Looking into roof repair on old PO (has leaks.)



An elevated view from the south of the Robertsdale Depot shows the new roof in September 2021. – Pete Clarke photo

Good golly, no wonder we are tired! Of course, if you visited Robertsdale last year, there's probably no reason to go back again in 2022. What's that, Jane? You say that there are already things in place that were not there at the end of the 2021 season and more changes planned? You say there's going to be new items for sale at the gift shop? You say that there's lots of reasons to come visit again? You point out that most visitors commented that they didn't allow enough time and need to come again to visit our museum, and also allow time to visit the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum? Well, you don't say. – *Pete Clarke*

Along the Line:

There is always brush cutting going on it seems, and this year was no exception. What was exceptional in 2021 was the work done after the brush was cleared. While working hand-in-hand with the EBT Foundation full time track crew, a decade of disuse was undone, and the rails are now safe for revenue passenger trains to traverse the main line. From Oddfellows Cemetery Road to 1200' beyond the traditional tourist era stopping point north of Colgate Grove, FEBT helped restore this distance of nearly five miles, and more than 10,000 crossties. Both the Rockhill and Colgate Grove wyes were rebuilt in the process, and Track 3 in the Rockhill Yard was restored for the first time since common carrier operations ceased in 1956. The Friends are grateful to have this working relationship with the Foundation, and appreciate the chance to restore history that had been thought lost to time. – *Doug Davenport*



Restored trackage on the main line goes as far as the eye can see in this July 2021 view from Horne's Crossing. – Evard Mott photo

Miscellaneous:

All of the progress listed above starts with the most important portion of the organization; the membership. After nearly doubling in numbers over the course of 2020, the membership count climbed to a record 1637 as the calendar runs out on 2021. FEBT conducted a survey this year to identify ways to best reach out to non-members to attract new membership, and to make sure the current group of members has the best possible experience with the organization and its leadership.



Fundraising also reached new heights, as \$240,663.14 was donated to the organization during the year, as portions of both the 2021 and 2022 Fundraising Campaigns. The Company Store also generated another \$24,710.67 in revenue. This amazing income allowed for expenditures toward 2021 campaign goals, other miscellaneous project contributions, and a handful of grants to the EBT Foundation. These grants include \$70,371.89 for the Carpentry Shop stabilization and concrete floor, \$45,575.06 towards the Storehouse restoration, and \$10,000 earmarked for the joint Archives program. The roof for the Robertsdale Depot was funded from these donations as well, at a cost of \$28,800 as a project identified in the 2021 Fundraising Campaign. The FEBT is thankful for each and every donation given to help preserve, restore, and interpret the East Broad Top Railroad.

A lot of success occurred this past year involving the Friends of the East Broad Top. Rockhill restoration continues on just about every item you could imagine. Robertsdale boasts an operational FEBT Museum. Almost five miles of main line trackage has been restored with help from the Friends. Record contributions of volunteer hours and financial donations are fueling all the success. Thank you for everything you have contributed this year, and we look forward to continuing that success with you in 2022.

– Doug Davenport

Archivist intern Sammy Bellin reviews records in Orbisonia Station with EBT historian and FEBT board member Lee Rainey in August 2021. – Virginia Rainey photo

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1637

DECEMBER FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The December reporting period was a prosperous one. While there were fewer donations received than November, the dollar mount total was higher at just over \$77,000 for the month. \$10,000 of this total is a dollar for dollar match challenge, which was readily met by donors. As the Friends sees the calendar turn from 2021 into 2022, the 2022 Fundraising Campaign has already attained its goal. The FEBT is sincerely grateful to the donors who have made this happen. Stay tuned to this newsletter and the FEBT website for how these funds are spent.

There are several ways to donate. Donations can be made online at <https://febt.org/fundraiser/> 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

2022 Fundraising Goal:

\$100,000

November Donations:

\$77,102.19

Campaign Total:

\$163,777.19 – 163.8%

December donors*:

David A. Ackerman	George Ahrens	Walter Albers	Jerry L. Allison
Larry Altoff	Andrew J. Austin	Backwoods Solutions LLC c/o Wendy Miller	
Herbert E. Baer	Ronald H. Baile	Wayne Baldwin	John Ball
William H. Barnes	Robert Bayles	Ronald W. Beckman	Chuck Bender
Charlie Berger	William Bernard	Michael Bezilla	John Biemiller
Paul Binney	Tim Bittner	Douglas O. Blount	Tom Bowdler
John R. Bowie	Bruce Bowie	Alexander Bowser	Ross Brown
David L. Brush	Dave Bucher	Victoria Bush	Ernest Buyok
Robert G. Caccese	B. A. Cameron	The Candelaria Fund	Davis S. Cangalosi
David H. Capp	Matthew V. Cesare	Norman Charbonneau	Walter F. Christensen
Albert J. Churella	Ronald S. Cicchini	Pete Claussen	Daniel R. Cobb
Gordon Cochrane	Richard Conard	Craig & Jill Confair	Bennett M. Cornelius
Frank Couch	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce H. Courter		Philip Coyle
Jan W. Crane	Rowenna L. Cupillari	Dan Cupper	Daniel Schmidt & Bobbi Fischer
Ronald E. Davis	Alton P. Davis	Paul D. Denton	David Dewey
Steven Dickey	Jim Dimond	Frank R. Dziama	James Eichler
Stephen G. Elliott	Larry Endler	Thomas A. Ennis	Linda G. Erdman
Karl Erickson	J. Harry Feldman	Douglas E. Fink	J. Raymond Fitzpatrick
Leland E. Floyd	John Fowler	Earl E. Frantz	G. Carson Freeman
Thomas E. Gaffney	Arthur A. Galloway	Richard F. Gauthier	Peter Gentieu
Eric V. Gernert	Francis A. Goad	Paul Gramlich	Bill Graves
John W. Greathead	Stephen Greif	Robert W. Grzywacz	Don Guckian
A. Gregory Gutsell	Robert A. Hadsall	Roy C. Haeusler	Fred Hagerich
John A. Hall	Geoffrey H. Hamway	Carroll Hanson	John M. Helduser
Charles High	John Scott Hiller	Richard Himmer	Sheldon E. Hoover
Dick Horn	Clifford L. Howell	James & Julie Hughes	Michael Hurlburt
David E. Husman	Ted Illjes & Family	Michael A. Imaoka	Gary Jacobs
Dave Johnson	Dennis J. Johnson	Thomas F. Jordan	Patricia A. Jud
Bob Kaufman	John T. Keene	Greg Kelton	Kim Kibler
Victor V. Kidd	Michael E. Klein	Nathan Kline	Charles P. Klump
Craig S. Kumler	Paul H. Kurtz	Frank Kyper	Allen W. Landis
Edgar C. Lecuyer	Paul Lee	John & Susie LePrince	Gordon L. Ley

George P. Lind	Byron L. Locke	Brad E. Lowans	Ryan & Evan Loy
Douglas Mahrer	Matthew Malkiewicz	W. L. Maner	Dan Marquardt
Paul Marynowych	Richard A. Mauser	Garret McCabe	Kristopher McClellan
Robert McKay	Jesse J. Meeker	William Melville	Robert S. Mesite
Laurence Miller	Curtis Miller	James H. Millhouse	Robert A. Millinghausen
Ted Miskell	John D. Mitchell	Linn Moedinger	Bruce G. Moffat
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Mohler		Edward Monnie	Michael D. Moore
Wick Moorman	Thomas F. Moran	George Morton	Andy J. Mulhollen
John Murray	National Christmas Tree	Railroad c/o John Zampino	
Bob Newton	Peter Nicholas	Russell Norris	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Olinick
Albert W. Olson	Louis Pane	Selwyn P. Parks	Douglas G. Patterson
Ron Pearson	Bruce Pencek	Jack Perry	James Phy
Hans Plugge	Walter P. Poppe	John Prestopino	David L. Pritts
George C. Querns	Jon Radder	Michael J. Ray	Philip Raynes
Mark Reese	Al Rizzo	Joseph Rizzotti	James & Dianne Robinson
Edward Rogers	Norman R. Runk	Frederic W. Runser	Bill Ryan
Thomas E. & Jean Acheson	Smith Sadd	William D. Sample	Robert Savino
Robert J. Savino	Kevin Scanlon	Peter J. Schierloh	Douglas Schleef
John Wm. Schmidt	Russell P. Schmidt	Mark Schmitt	Raymond E. Schmitt
Randy Scholl	Donald F. Schultz	William R. Seabrook	Jon M. Shade
David Shantz	Tom & Sharon Sharratt	Ralph B. Sheaffer	John Sheets
Winifred Shetrom & Family		Roger L. Shimon	Robert D. Shotsberger
Ira S. Silverman	Christopher Simone	Thomas Sliviak	Peter B. Smith
Carl Eugene Soechtig	Ann R. Sparrough	Terry L. Sprague	Tom Stackhouse
Keith Stanley	Donald R. Stark	Gil Sterner	Roger K. Stier
Jeff Stone	Dennis R. Straub	Tom Sullivan	Jon Surprise
David M. Sutton	Peter R. Switalski	David Syiek	Rick Taube
Douglas C. Taylor	Robert S. Taylor	Rick Thomas	Daniel Thomas
Alan E. Thomas	J. Craig Thorpe	Mike Torreson	Ted F. Tumicki
Charles E. Ulmann	Van Horn Foundation	Richard E. Wachter	Donald G. Way
Walter L. Weart	David S. Whitaker	Brad White	Tony White
Albert Wiggins	Stephen Wiggs	Sam W. Wilder	Wayne R. Wilder
Brian Wolfe	Edward Wood	David Woodbury	Terry & Anne Woolsey
John D. Zidik	Ron Ziegler	Michael Zschoche	

In Memory of Angelo Ciarrocca & Russell Headings
Betty Ciarrocca

In Memory of Warren Erwin & Harry Gabert
Rosalene K. Booher

In Memory of Jeff Feldmeier
Bill Staiger

In Memory of Robert E. Hoover
Mike Hoover

In Memory of Mac McKinley
Dexter A. McClure

In Memory of Bonnie Phillips
David Phillips

In Memory of Jerry Skeim
Elizabeth Boisvert

* - All donors listed represent donations received between November 22, 2021 and December 21, 2021.
Donations received after December 21 will be reported in the February 2022 issue due to press time constraints.

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

2022 CAMPAIGN STEAMS PAST GOAL IN JUST THREE MONTHS!

You've done it again! Thanks to 273 donations in the past month, in addition to 322 received since Oct. 1, you've put us way over the top. We easily qualified for the second \$10,000 match (generously offered by FEBT member Dan Schmidt) and our campaign total now stands at an amazing \$163,777.19!

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to everyone who helped us achieve this amazing result. We set a more aggressive goal for this year – \$100,000 – and once again you helped us to surpass it, and in just three months! Thank you!

You have by now certainly heard that the East Broad Top has been the recent recipient of a state grant of \$1.1 million, in part to begin the push south to Saltillo. That confirms our inclusion of Saltillo planning in our own fundraising target for this year.

Your Board of Directors will now start the new year with the pleasant task of considering how to get the most impact from the substantial sum raised over and beyond what we targeted. We will be looking at how to accelerate and push to completion projects already underway, and also at where to build a nest egg for large future projects. We'll keep you informed!

Thank you once more for your generous support of the Friends of the East Broad Top.

Lee Rainey
2022 Campaign Chairman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
January 8, 9	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
February 5, 6	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
March 5, 6	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 2, 3	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 23, 24	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 7	BTACMHS	Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum Grand Reopening
May 14, 15	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 23-27	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
June 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 25, 26	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 16, 17	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 13, 14	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 3, 4	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 19-23	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
November 5, 6	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session

<u>Hosts:</u> FEBT	Friends of the East Broad Top	www.febt.org
EBT	East Broad Top Railroad	www.eastbroadtop.com
RTM	Rockhill Trolley Museum	www.rockhilltrolley.org
BTACMHS	Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society	broadtopminersmuseum.com

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

EBT Rockhill Carpenter Shop *Available Now from FEBT Company Store!*



Conceived by
Broad Top
Mountain Models



Designed and
manufactured by
banta modelworks

As true to the century-old prototype as possible, with laser cut floor, interior framing, roof rafters, walls, battens, doors, windows, and sub-roof for construction ease and excellent fit! Corrugated metal roofing material. HO scale.

13" x 5" actual footprint.

A 3- or 4-evening project.

\$120 (members get 15% discount)

Shipping charges and sales tax are not included in the prices above. 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.

Help Needed at FEBT Company Store

The FEBT Company Store is a unique source for modeling supplies and literature for our members and others who are interested in the East Broad Top Railroad. It is also a key fundraiser for the FEBT.

The Company Store is in need of someone to replace Wade Woodcock as the Fulfillment Manager for the FEBT Company Store. The Fulfillment Manager is in charge of shipping merchandise when orders are received by the Company Store. This job is essential to operating the store.

Wade has handled the job for the last 5 years and has to step down for health reasons.

The job involves receiving new merchandise, storing the merchandise, and shipping the merchandise when orders are received. The current manager devotes an extra bedroom for storage space, although, if an interested candidate does not have space in his home for storage, the FEBT would pay for outside storage. Home storage is preferred however.

The job does not require order confirmation or managing payments as this is done by software. However it does require having a computer and internet access. It also does not require using personal funds to purchase supplies or pay for merchandise nor does it require going to the post office for mailing as access to Stamps.com is available.

If you are interested or have questions contact Andy Van Scyoc, FEBT President at vanscyoc@gmail.com, or Dick Ullery, Manager, FEBT Store at dickullery38@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Five Questions for ... Eric Knepp



Eric Knepp first visited the East Broad Top as a toddler, and he's now a regular FEBT volunteer. He lives in McClure, Pa. (east of Lewistown on Route 522), and it takes him about an hour to drive to Rockhill Furnace. Most recently he appeared as Santa's elf on all 37 trains of the joint East Broad Top/Rockhill Trolley Museum Christmas event.

How did you get interested in the East Broad Top?

When I was 3, my grandfather treated my parents and me to a ride on the EBT. While I don't really remember the experience, photos from that day picture a happy grandfather with his very happy grandson! Locomotive #15 was running and we appear to have ridden Combine #15. The day also included my first trolley ride, on Johnstown Traction Co. #311. My next experience was a sooty ride in an open rider flat car on a first-grade class field trip. The groundwork was set for a lifelong interest.

Have you learned anything volunteering for the FEBT that you never imagined yourself learning?

I've learned more about passenger-car construction than I ever thought I would need to know. The day Charlie Wootton, Andy Van Scyoc, and I installed a bolster plate and the truss rods over it in Combine #14 was an eye opener.

Is there an FEBT project you're particularly proud to have been part of?

The bulkhead door in Combine #14 has become near and dear to me, because with careful guidance and help, I was able to restore it. The work included stripping the paint, disassembling the entire raised panel door, cleaning up the pieces, reassembling it tight as new, painting, polishing the hardware, reconfiguring the doorjamb since the car body had been straightened, and installing the door. Going into the project, the only thing I would have been comfortable doing on my own was painting it.

Is there an FEBT volunteer you particularly admire? Why?

Several volunteers have been an influence for me, but Mike Wahler was the first. Like many new volunteers, I started on the shop building paint crew. Mike was an experienced painter and took the time to show a new volunteer all the details of working on the paint crew. He also took the time to get to know me, which provided a sense of belonging. Within a few work sessions, I was able to manage on my own with painting and even help guide others.

Do you have a particular EBT memory you'd like to share?

For my parents' wedding anniversary in 2011, I treated them to a day at the East Broad Top during the Orbisonia/Rockhill Homecoming weekend. We brought our lunch with us and had a picnic at Colgate Grove, where we shared the pavilion with a large group of Amish from Juniata County. The Amish were fascinated with the train. After catching a later train back to Rockhill, we took our first speeder ride through the yard and south to the route 475 grade crossing. We also rode a trolley, York Railways #163, at the Rockhill Trolley Museum. Little did we know that the railroad would shut down at the end of the year and that it could have been our last ride. I'm looking forward to reliving this memory with my parents upon the return of steam and construction of new facilities at Colgate Grove.

— Lawrence Biemiller

EBTRR ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS PROGRAM

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2021

The East Broad Top Archives and Special Collections (EBTRR ASC) Program was formally established in May 2021 as a joint endeavor of the EBT Foundation and the Friends of the East Broad Top.

The overall goal of the EBTRR ASC is to **protect, preserve, and provide public access** to the thousands of archival records and museum objects that provide a comprehensive and detailed history of the EBT. The collections represent: The EBT Common Carrier Era and its operational relations with other companies and organizations (1856-1956); The EBT Kovalchick Tourist Railroad Era and its other operational relations with other companies and organizations, under the stewardship of the Kovalchick Family (1956-2020); and The EBTF Foundation Tourist Railroad Era (2020-present). The FEBT Collections, which contain content from all of the above eras, will also be made available through this project. The goal for 2021 was to lay a solid foundation for the Program while enabling early access for support railroad operations and limited research. Accomplishments for 2021 are summarized below.

Plan:

- The EBTRR ASC Program was jointly funded at \$20,000.00, with funds coming from both the EBTF (an anonymous donor) and the FEBT.
- An archives and museum studies professional, Julie Rockwell, was hired part-time as an independent contractor to lead the EBTRR ASC.
- A summer EBTRR ASC intern from Juniata College, Sammy Bellin, worked for a 10-week period, twenty hours per week, and also supported the EBTF Shops Complex summer tours.
- An FEBT Archives Committee was created, including Curt Miller, Scarlett Wirt, and Lee Rainey.
- An EBTRR ASC Task Force was initiated, composed of both the EBTF and the FEBT stakeholders, and also cultural heritage professionals and historians in the community.
- A Task Force subgroup called the “Workerbees” was created. It consists of the archivist, and two FEBT members (Scarlett Wirt and Lee Rainey) who are experienced in collections management, cultural heritage activities, and EBT research and history. The Workerbees have met for online meetings and work sessions at least bi-weekly since August.
- The Workerbee task list includes development of policies, procedures, workflows, and protocols based on standards for professional archives and collecting institutions. The goal of these tasks is to make the EBTRR ASC project “grant ready” by putting in place the major documentation expected by funding agencies in the archives field.
- The adoption of a formal *Mission, Purpose, Vision, Values, and Goals* document was formalized by the FEBT board and is pending approval from the EBTF board. The EBTRR ASC Mission is to “protect, preserve, and provide access to the history, memory, and legacy of the East Broad Top Railroad National Historic Landmark.”
- A FY2022 Work Plan was developed that includes a tentative budget.

Protect:

- An interim *Access and Use Policy* was drafted and is pending review and approval.
- A collections inventory was begun to determine what types of collections are stored in the EBT Orbisonia Passenger Station and other buildings in Rockhill Furnace. An estimated 3500 linear feet exist in the collections stored, mainly in the Station vaults.
- At various FEBT Rockhill work sessions, FEBT crews have helped to secure and store records scattered across several buildings.

Preserve:

- Selected conservation ‘triage’ was done to various materials found in the Station vaults to better protect them, including storing fragile, bound volumes in storage bins, and removing reproduction photographs from old poster boards.

- Standard archival supplies were purchased, including but not limited to acid-free archival record boxes, acid-free photograph sleeves, and a temperature and humidity monitor to record monthly the environmental conditions in the Station vaults.
- A donation from an anonymous donor fully funded a third-party professional archival and preservation needs assessment for both the EBTF and the FEBT collections and the FEBT Robertsdale Museum. It was conducted by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), located in Philadelphia, PA. To prepare for the CCAHA Onsite Visit, which was held on November 8, 2021, the Workerbees, along with key EBTF and FEBT personnel, completed an extensive, required pre-assessment survey. The survey provided information on the organizations, the program, and the current management of the collections, including its housing, facility environmental conditions, the condition of the collections, and future needs.
- The Workerbees are drafting the Scope of Collections (SOC) rules, which provide guidelines for the what materials should be incorporated into the EBTRR ASC. They propose that the ASC retain, collect, and accept material relevant to EBT equipment, operations, infrastructure, personnel, and related industries, as well as the role of the EBT in the communities it served.
- The EBTRR ASC Workerbees propose that a Collections Advisory Committee, a small group of selected members who are experts in EBT history, will approve all materials for formal incorporation.

Provide Access:

- It was suggested by the EBTRR ASC Task Force that an article exemplifying the type of information to be found in the Archives be published in *Timber Transfer*. Lee Rainey visited the Orbisonia Passenger Station and, working with Sammy Bellin and Julie Rockwell, conducted research in hitherto unknown primary materials found in the vaults. The sample article, “The Transition to Standard-Gauge Cars on the EBT,” is featured in the FEBT Winter 2022 *Timber Transfer*.
- A presentation on the EBTRR ASC was given by the archivist at the FEBT Annual Reunion held in October. The archivist highlighted the development of the program, and shared various photographs that illustrate the scope of the collections found mainly in the Station vaults.
- Research and evaluation were conducted to select collections management system software needed to begin formally cataloging the collections and presenting them online. Purchase is expected in early 2022.



In order to stabilize the structure of the iconic Stone House all of the lath and plaster needed to be removed on the first floor. Evidence of two past remodeling cycles was revealed with dates carved in beams of 1895 and December 1941. Once stabilized, the Stone House will be used as it was during common carrier days, as the Master Mechanic's Office and a Crew Room. – Brad Esposito photo

ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION

Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. (FEBT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, historical, and educational society dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the East Broad Top Railroad National Historic Landmark in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. It was organized in 1983 and now boasts over 1,600 members. FEBT publishes an award-winning magazine, *Timber Transfer*, and a monthly e-newsletter, and operates a museum in Robertsdale PA, the EBT's southern terminus. See febt.org/ for more information.



Work progresses on #16 with new cylinder jackets and the drivers primed in advance of fresh black paint. – Brad Esposito 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.