

---

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2022

---

<b>In This Issue:</b>	<b>March News from Robertsdale</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Calling All Volunteers!!</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>March Rockhill Work Session Notes</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Upcoming Rockhill Furnace Volunteer Sessions</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>The Care and Feeding of Volunteers</b>	
	<b>(FEBT Track Department Version)</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>FEBT Receives Award for Robertsdale OPO</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>March Fundraising Update</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Company Store Item of the Month</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Board of Directors Notes</b>	<b>9</b>

---



*A crowd of volunteers poses outside the Paint Shop during the March 2022 Rockhill Work Session. – Brad Esposito photo*



## MARCH NEWS FROM ROBERTSDALE

The EBT Foundation has cleared trees from the old post office all the way back past the ashpit on the engine house lead. They've cleared from the mainline all the way to the bank of Great Trough Creek. Looking at Lee Rainey & Frank Kyper's book *East Broad Top* on page 116, this appears to be close to 500 feet. 500 feet may not be a number that impresses, but a look at the photos in this issue should make it clear what a huge difference this makes. This is a dramatic difference and changes your perception of where things were in Robertsdale. What a good reason to come visit your museum this year!

I believe there are hopes to re-establish the flower gardens that were referenced in Ron Morgan's article in the Fall 2021 (Vol. 33, No. 3) issue of *Timber Transfer*.

On Friday 3/4 Bill Reynolds, Bob Johnson, Steve Jackson, Jane Clarke, and I spent the day plotting out the walking tour path. We are attempting to design the path so that it meets the requirements/suggestions listed for ADA accessible trails. It's shocking how gradual a 5% grade is!

Friday 3/18 found Bill, Steve, Jane and me in Robertsdale again. Bill got our entrance door really working "right". No more do you have to give it an extra shove to get it to close. Then he got started on the door frame around the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor door. Steve got the new glass top installed in a glass case (which he had cleaned and painted on a work day last month) and we began to put artifacts in it. Now he's working on informative labels for those artifacts. If that all sounds too technical for you, I spent the day dusting and vacuuming. Jane mopped the floors and hung t-shirts on the new clothes rack.

As the days turn warmer you may be thinking, "I wish I'd have offered to become a host at the museum. I bet they have a lot of fun..." It's not too late! You can still join the team. Host training days have been set for Wednesday April 27 and Saturday April 30. Email me ([febt@aol.com](mailto:febt@aol.com)) to join in. We'd like to have you.



*Comparison shots of the tree clearing in Robertsdale. The top photo is from September 2021, and the lower picture is from March 2022. – Pete Clarke photos*

This year we intend to have the museum open each Saturday that the railroad runs trains. So, our scheduled open days are, 4/9, 5/7 – 10/29 (Saturdays only), 11/26 – 12/17 (Saturdays only). It will be easier to do this once you have volunteered to join the team.

The museum has changed. There are more artifacts displayed, with better informational labels. Many of those artifacts are in freshly cleaned and painted glass cases, which have lighting and have had new glass installed where needed. There's a better display of shirts, so you can see both sides and decide which size is right for you. We keep learning more, and people keep cutting trees, as you can see, so the walking tour just keeps getting better. We will have a new style and design of shirt for sale this year, along with the shirts, hats, and many other fine items that we had last year.

The museum is still free. The museum will still gladly accept your donation. So, make your plans to visit, and offer to join our host team. – *Pete Clarke*



*Snow covers the ground in the Aughwick Valley as the M-1 awaits its next run during the 2022 Winter Spectacular. – Jimmy Braum photo*

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

Exciting things are happening on the railroad, and our need for volunteers to support the many planned FEBT activities and projects continues to grow. Please consider if you can help this year with the preservation and rebirth of the EBT by volunteering at any of the activities in Robertsdale or Rockhill Furnace, or by helping with other FEBT functions. A great place to start is by visiting the Volunteer page on our FEBT website: <https://febt.org/volunteer/>. This page describes the FEBT volunteer experience, includes the latest work session schedules, and has contact info for the Rockhill and Robertsdale Restoration Coordinators. Please note that no particular skills are needed to contribute, just an interest in restoring the EBT. You can apply the skills you have and learn new ones from experienced volunteers.

If you would like to help with any FEBT project, have questions about volunteering, or have suggestions for our volunteer recruiting efforts, please email me at [dbulman115@gmail.com](mailto:dbulman115@gmail.com). – *Dave Bulman*



# MARCH ROCKHILL VOLUNTEER WORK SESSION NOTES

We had a good turnout on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Rockhill, with approximately 30 volunteers attending on Saturday and about 15 on Sunday. The weather was dry and warm, and good progress was made on multiple projects. Track work continued in the Rockhill yard with tightening of the remaining rail joint bolts. The Carpentry Shop lean-to framing was completed and the first metal roof panels were installed. Progress continued on Combine 14, including interior trim installation, paint prep, baggage door repair, and the start of seat rebuilding. Window work included installation of restored sashes into the carpenter shop. Store house progress included completion of the built-in first floor bins and reconstruction and installation of the first floor free standing bins. – *Dave Bulman*



*The rebuilt free standing bin bank is carried back to the store house by Brad Esposito, Vic Booth, Brian Wolfe, Dave Bulman, Craig Confair, Andy Van Scyoc and Doug Linebaugh. – Dave Ebright photo*

## UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 2, 3. Work hours will be from 9 am to 5 pm Saturday, and 9 am to 4 pm Sunday. Subsequent volunteer sessions in Rockhill Furnace will be Saturday and Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday and Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and the first 2022 volunteer work week from Monday May 23 to Friday May 27. The work weeks are a good way for volunteers who live a distance from Rockhill Furnace to maximize their volunteer time versus travel time.

If you are interested in participating in the Rockhill Furnace volunteer sessions including track work, and are not on the current signup distribution, please contact Charlie Wootton, the Rockhill Furnace volunteer coordinator, at [rhrestoration@febt.org](mailto:rhrestoration@febt.org). – *Dave Bulman*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
April 2, 3	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 9, 10	EBT/RTM	Easter on the Rails
April 23, 24	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 27, 30	FEBT	FEBT Museum Host Training
May 14, 15	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 21, 22	EBT	EBT Goes to War!
May 23-27	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
June 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 11, 12	RTM	Johnstown Car Weekend
June 25, 26	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 25	BTACMHS	Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum Grand Reopening
July 16, 17	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 16	RTM	Trolleys and Ice Cream!
August 13, 14	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 13, 14	RTM	First Day Celebration
August 17, 18, 19, 20	EBT/RTM	Orbisonia/Rockhill Homecoming
September 3, 4	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9, 10, 11	EBT	Orbisonia Antique Power Show
September 10	RTM	Car Cruise-In and Movies!
September 17	EBT	First Responder Day
September 17	RTM	Searching for Sasquatch
September 19-23	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
October 7, 8, 9	FEBT	FEBT Fall Reunion
October 8	RTM	Fall Spectacular
October 8, 9	BTACMHS	Robertsdale Community Days/Coal Miner Heritage Days
October 15, 16, 22, 23	EBT/RTM	Pumpkin Festival
October 22	RTM	Phantom Trolley
November 5, 6	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 25, 26, 27	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 2-4, 9-11, 16-18	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country

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

## MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top  
membership is up to  
**1677**



# THE CARE AND FEEDING OF VOLUNTEERS (FEBT TRACK DEPARTMENT VERSION)

Many, if not most, organizations that carry out their work and mission with the support and help of volunteers, engage in discussions about how to recruit more volunteers, and how to retain them. After all, those who are willing to devote time, energy, and expertise to the cause for which the organization exists are the lifeblood of the outfit. I guess that's to state the perfectly obvious (which is one of my best and most noticeable traits).

How does an organization go about attracting people to its work, and how does it manage to retain them as active contributors to the efforts of it?

Here is Tucker's short version, in answer to those questions:

1. Engage in a cause greater than themselves: Offer people a chance to engage in a work and a cause that's much bigger and greater than themselves. So, in the work of the FEBT, for example, we're engaged in the mighty task of bringing the EBT back to life. I've often thought that this particular time in the railroad's existence offers us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to contribute to something that will pay enormous dividends for many, many years to come. Engaging in this sort of a task brings meaning and depth to our lives, oftentimes offering those who put their shoulders to the wheel a meaning and a depth that can't be found in the everyday concerns of life.

2. Offer meaningful work: No one likes to devote time and energy to a work party (often, for many of our FEBT members, entailing lengthy trips to get to the railroad), only to stand around without a task and without a purpose at hand. Doing something at the railroad can involve doing something completely new, or it can involve making use of a skill or a trade that one engages in in some other venue. A good number of our FEBT track personnel have never done track work before, so a good bit of my role in leading work parties is to mentor new members of the crew (along with telling jokes and stories, of course). And, oh, by the way, those who lead need to be "encouragers".



*Gene Tucker and Larry Fuchs demonstrate the precision side of trackwork at the south end of the Rockhill Yard during the March 2022 Work Session. – Eric Knepp photo*

3. Say "Thank You!": We can't say that enough. And, I don't personally believe it's enough to offer generic, one-size-fits-all thank you's. I like naming names. I like welcoming new members by

identifying them by name. Offering gratitude for the efforts and the results accomplished tells those who volunteer that their work and their presence is noticed and is appreciated. So, in that vein, I'm going to follow my own advice and name two members of the FEBT track crew whose names didn't appear in last month's list: They are Gordon Ley and Doug Linebaugh (sorry, gents!). And, since last month's report, we've gained two new members: So welcome to Stephen Campbell and Brian Hoffman. (Their addition to the track department's roster brings that roster to almost fifty people!)

Perhaps you can guess that I've been a part of volunteer organizations that didn't follow these three critical requirements. Perhaps you can also guess that I'm no longer a part of those organizations. There's too much I want to do in life to try to assist organizations that don't seem to know how to attract volunteers, or who don't seem to offer meaningful work, or who don't seem to appreciate the efforts of their volunteers. Life is simply too short to hang around with second-rate outfits. So, just for the record, I'm delighted to be a (small) part of FEBT's work and mission.

See you trackside or at the railroad sometime soon! – Gene Tucker

## FEBT RECEIVES AWARD FOR ROBERTSDALE OPO

On March 3, 2022, the Huntingdon Chamber of Commerce and Planning Commission presented an award to FEBT for the restoration and reuse of the Old Post Office in Robertsdale. Jane and Pete Clarke, Julie Rockwell, and Steve Jackson represented FEBT at the awards banquet at the Huntingdon Country Club.

This project has been going on since the FEBT bought the building in 1987. Hank Inman led FEBT's efforts for decades. Unfortunately, during the past two years his health declined and he passed away before seeing the fruits of his labor. We spent many hours with tools and paintbrushes to get it into shape for the 2021 season. We also recruited volunteer hosts to bring the museum to life. They each add their enthusiasm and perspective about the history of the railroad and the area.

We will continue to grow the FEBT presence in Robertsdale. The depot is undergoing rehabilitation and an improved walking path is in the works. We will continue to collaborate with the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum at the Reality Theater in Robertsdale.

The museum will be open every Saturday from May through October from 10 AM to 5 PM. It will also be open on April 9<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Easter on the Rails event at the EBT. Please visit our museum in Robertsdale! Better yet, volunteer to be a host! – Jane Clarke



*This plaque was awarded to the FEBT for the restoration efforts undertaken regarding the Robertsdale Old Post Office's transformation into the FEBT Museum. – Jane Clarke photo*





# MARCH FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Friends of the East Broad Top received 22 donations in the March reporting period. These contributions accounted for over \$3,000. Please continue to follow this newsletter to read about how these funds will be used in support of FEBT's mission. All are encouraged to attend a work session to see the funds in action as well. Please check the Upcoming Events section for the work session schedule.

## 2022 Fundraising Goal:

\$100,000

## March Donations:

\$3,326.33

## Campaign Total:

\$218,546.83 – 218.5%

March donors\*:

James Benko  
David Capp  
Gary Hart  
Keith Kreider  
Bud Parks  
Charles Sullivan

Alexander Bowser  
Wade Colyer  
Dave Johnson  
John LePrince  
Richard Rutledge  
Ron Ziegler

BNSF Railway courtesy of Brian Yang  
Douglas E. Fink  
Walter Keely Jr.  
Robert J. Meckes  
Jeff Smith

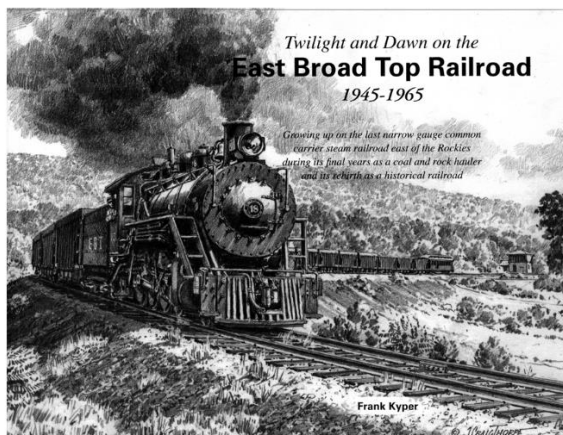
William George  
Victor V. Kidd  
Frederick Monsimer  
Chris Spina

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

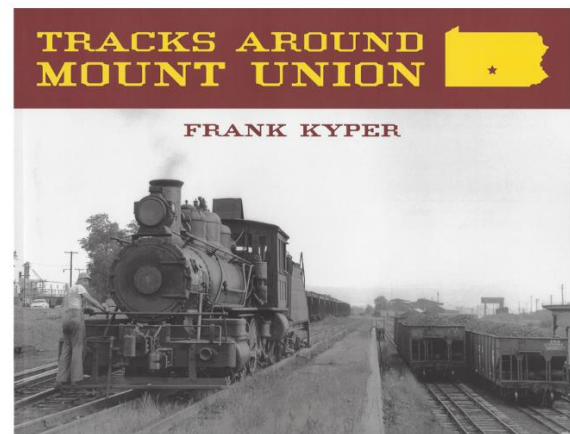
- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

## COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

### Back in Stock! Two EBT Classics by Frank Kyper



Paperback, 112 pages



Paperback, 134 pages

\$50 each. (FEBT members get a 15% discount on books.) Shipping for 1 book \$7.50, for both books \$11.25.

The most convenient way to order is through the FEBT Company Store website at [store.febt.org](http://store.febt.org). We accept PayPal and credit cards. You can also make donations and pay your annual membership dues through the Company Store website. You may also contact the store by paper mail at FEBT Company Store, 121 Chester Drive. #215, Pine Grove Mills, PA USA 16868-0215.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES



*The Carpentry Shop lean-to framing was completed on Sunday, March 19, by Craig Confair, Andy Van Scyoc, and Brian Wolfe. - Dave Bulman photo.*

The Board of Directors met on the 9th of February and the 9th of March covering myriad topics:

- In February the Board authorized a budget for Rockhill Restoration material of \$4500. The Board followed that in March by authorizing the purchase of material for the siding on combine #14.

- In February the Board reviewed and endorsed two policy documents of the joint archives initiative; The Scope of Collections policy and the Interim Access and Use Policy.

- In March the Board authorized installation of the security system in Robertsdale to protect both the Station and Old Post Office. This system will cost a little over three thousand dollars to install and requires a \$50 monthly monitoring fee. This was a project that we promoted in our 2021 Fundraising campaign and I thank Pete & Jane Clarke and Curtis Rockwell for pushing it forward.

The deadline for nominations of Board candidates was technically March 31st but the slate of candidates will officially be accepted by the Board during our April 6th meeting. In other words, there is one last chance to nominate someone or step forward yourself. Please let our Secretary, Curt Miller know at [cemillerpe@gmail.com](mailto:cemillerpe@gmail.com). – Andy Van Scyoc

## 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/](http://febt.org/) for more information.

## 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](mailto:Newsletter@febt.org). Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Events occurring after the 25<sup>th</sup>, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.