

In This Issue:	FEBT, EBT Foundation Receive Wrinn Award	2
	Southbound from the Southern Terminus	2
	Future Machine Shop Car Sees Some Attention	3
	Company Store Item of the Month	4
	Fall Work Week Makes Progress in Rockhill	4
	September Fundraising Update	7
	FEBT Needs Your Help!!	8
	Upcoming Events	9
	Upcoming Rockhill Furnace Volunteer Sessions	9
	Upcoming Robertsdale Volunteer Sessions	9
	September Robertsdale Roundup	10
	“That Was the Month That Was” for the Track Gang	11



*After the FEBT Fall Work Week, the work accomplished on the Coal Dock Filling Shed is very apparent from track level.
– Matt Wall photo*

FEBT, EBT FOUNDATION RECEIVE WRINN AWARD

Friends of the East Broad Top and the EBT Foundation were jointly awarded the first-ever Jim Wrinn Award for the biggest railway preservation story of 2022. The Wrinn Award is presented by the HeritageRail Alliance, and is named for the former *Trains* magazine editor. Cate Kratville-Wrinn presented FEBT President Andy Van Scyoc the award, who received it on behalf of both the FEBT and EBT Foundation in Windsor Locks, CT on September 10th. It is a great honor for both of our organizations to be awarded the inaugural Jim Wrinn Award, and it is a true testament to all of you for what has been accomplished, and all that will be in the future. – Andy Van Scyoc



Right: FEBT President Andy Van Scyoc receives the Wrinn award from Cate Kratville-Wrinn at the HeritageRail Alliance Fall Meeting on September 10th, 2022. – Marjorie Van Scyoc photo

Below: The FEBT Track Crew divides and conquers on September 3rd, as one group gauges the main line while the other installs the temporary trestle to bridge a washout approximately three quarters of a mile south of Robertsedale. – Todd Johnson photo

SOUTHBOUND FROM THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS

“Cornstalks and beanpoles” once described a bridge reconstruction project. The utterance was from Abraham Lincoln. It described the work of Herman Haupt, in charge of U.S. military railroads at the start of the Civil War.

Gene Tucker’s army didn’t have a 400 footlong span to reconstruct. They also didn’t have hundreds of soldiers and unlimited supplies. Yet, in one day, his group of volunteers was able to create a bridge over a large washout, extending handcar and speeder rides south from Robertsedale to a quarter of a mile from the village of Wood.



Tucker’s track volunteers were numerous enough to divide into two crews. One crew on the bridge project, while the other crew worked at correcting the track gauging along the main line. Gauges as narrow as 29 inches were found and corrected using hook bars, steel ties, and wooden ties. Relics of some of the original ties with spikes still attached were occasionally

discovered. They were usually found while pickaxing tree roots and stumps too close to the inside rails for handcar clearances.

The physical work of the warm summer day was only made more challenging by the remoteness of the worksite. Tools and supplies had to be transported to the Broad Top Mountain location using the FEBT handcar and Steve Jackson's Gator.



FEBT Track Crew members test their work with a handcar ride over the new trestle. – Todd Johnson photo

A special thanks go to the volunteers who participated to extend the trackage a little further. These included: Gene Tucker, Dave Hart, Tom Jordan, John Quinn, Garrett Isenberg (new - welcome!), Brian Hoffman, Justin Santichen, Todd Johnson, Daniel Lane, Larry Fuchs, Tom Perman, and Charlie High.

More opportunities continue to extend the EBT into the future. – Todd Johnson

FUTURE MACHINE SHOP CAR SEES SOME ATTENTION

Work continued in Rockhill on Boxcar 174 over the weekend of September 3rd and 4th. Several volunteers worked to make repairs to the decayed steel of the car. Steel work was fabricated and installed to continue the effort to get the car stabilized and enclosed. Other weekend activities included painting siding for Combine 14, completing the door framing for the south end of the Car Shop, and organizing parts in the bins of the in the recently stabilized Storehouse. 19 members contributed on Saturday, and 13 people pitched in on Sunday. – Eric Knepp and Doug Davenport

Russ Semen, Steve Jacobs, and Dave Dietz install replacement steel on the side of Boxcar 174 – Eric Knepp photo



COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

EBT Sideling Hill Tunnel Watchman's Shanty from Southern Heritage Models



The watchman's shanty kit is primarily laser-cut basswood. Like the prototype, it has a built-in desk and benches inside. The doors and windows can be made closed or open if you want to detail the inside with a pot-belly stove and chair. The side portion was the coal bin.



Prototype photo by Vince Ryan in FEBT collection

The price for the HO shanty kit is \$28.00. The O scale shanty kit price is \$52.75. 15% member discount applies. Shipping cost for each HO kit is \$5.00, or \$7.50 for two or more. For O, shipping cost is \$7.50 each or \$10 for two or more.

Order through FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org (PayPal, credit cards accepted.) Mail orders must enclose check payable to FEBT Company Store (no money orders.) PA residents must include 6% sales tax. Send mail orders to FEBT Company Store, 121 Chester Drive. #215, Pine Grove Mills, PA USA 16868-0215.

FALL WORK WEEK MAKES PROGRESS IN ROCKHILL

The FEBT Fall Work Week was held in Rockhill Furnace, PA from Monday, September 19th through Friday, September 23rd. The week saw a lot of progress on several projects, as well as some team-building and camaraderie opportunities. Much work was completed around the Rockhill Shops Complex, on Combine 14, and on reconstructing the Coal Dock Filling Shed.



Many work sessions this summer have seen the Carpentry Crew shoring up portions of the Shops Complex and replacing rotted cladding on a number of structures. The Carpentry Crew's focus of the work week was on another matter, so it allowed for painting of the work they had accomplished earlier in the year. The Carpentry Shop's new windows had their trim painted white, as well as three windows of the Roundhouse. The sides of the Storehouse, the Sandhouse, the rebuilt portions of south end of the Car Shop, and the north end of the Lumber Shed received the traditional red paint throughout the week to protect the wood. Another project in the Rockhill Yard was some added fencing along the wye track, adjacent to the area of the property occupied by the Rockhill Trolley Museum (RTM).

Mark Reese applies paint to the Storehouse during the Fall Work Week. – Eric Knepp photo

Combine 14 also received some paint. This paint was not the white and red of the shops structures, but the shade of green of the passenger rolling stock fleet. Members painted the window sashes and exterior siding of the car. The pieces were laid to dry on the drying racks created this summer for just such an application, and will be installed at future work sessions over the fall and winter. The seat frames for the car were given a coat of primer as well.

Right: David Syiek paints window sashes for Combine 14 at the south end of the Paint Shop. – Eric Knepp photo

Below: The west wall of the Filling Shed is erected during the Fall Work Week. – Eric Knepp photo



A focal point of the 2022 Fundraising Campaign was for funds to help reconstruct the Coal Dock at the south end of the Rockhill Yard. The required sequence of events and material procurement finally allowed FEBT members an opportunity to help with this project as the campaign is coming to a close. After the EBT Foundation installed new FEBT-funded steel beams to support the rails of the loading track late this summer, FEBT's chance had finally come. The Carpentry Crew assembled and erected the walls for the Filling Shed that used to sit atop the Coal Dock but had been lost to time. By week's end, the Filling Shed stood tall with both east and west walls as well as roof framing completed. Metal roofing and wooden side boards will be installed during future work sessions.



FEBT Work Weeks aren't all about work. Attendees enjoy a number of fun activities as well, as the opportunities present themselves. The work party enjoyed lunches together each day at the RTM Pavilion, with the food provided by FEBT. On Tuesday, each attendee received the new FEBT Volunteer tee shirt as a "Thank You" for their contributions. Wednesday evening saw a get-together hosted at the nearby home of FEBT volunteer and EBT Foundation employee

Andrew Greene. There was a dinner outing to a restaurant in Huntingdon one evening. If you stayed around Friday night or into the weekend, the EBT was hosting the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival.



The framing of the Coal Dock Filling Shed stands tall on top of the Coal Tippie on September 24th, at the conclusion of the FEBT Work Week. This project is funded by the 2022 FEBT Fundraising Campaign, and FEBT labor has accomplished the Filling Shed construction to this point. – Eric Knepp photo



FEBT members contributed 70 days of work over the course of the week. That is an average of 14 people per day, with a low of 10 folks on Friday and a peak of 20 on Thursday. The participants gave Rockhill a lot of improvements over the week, while also improving the relationships between FEBT members. FEBT hosts these Work Weeks twice a year. Please consider joining us in May and/or September 2023 for the Work Weeks. You don't have to commit to the entire week, as we are happy to have you for as much time as you may have available. Come join the productivity and fun!! – Eric Knepp, Dave Bulman, and Doug Davenport

FEBT members pose in their new Volunteer shirts during the Fall Work Week. – Dave Domitrovich photo

SEPTEMBER FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The last full month of reporting for the 2022 Fundraising Campaign puts FEBT just shy of 250% of the goal for the campaign. 41 donations in the September reporting period total just over \$4500. As you read above, these monies are being productively spent on the restoration projects outlined in the Fundraising Campaign, as well as other bonus projects the Board of Directors has approved along the way. Each dollar and each hour spent are deeply appreciated. Your help, either financial or in volunteer time, is extremely important to the success of the Friends of the East Broad Top in executing its mission to preserve, restore, and interpret the East Broad Top Railroad.

2022 Fundraising Goal:

\$100,000

September Donations:

\$4555.00

Campaign Total:

\$247,384.28 – 247.4%

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

September donors*:

Donald Barton
John Coulter
Jack Fornadley
Michael Hurlburt
Eric Knepp
Paul & Dolores Reiss

Alexander Bowser
Steven Dickey
Thomas Haag
Stephen Ingham
Joe Kress
John M. Reynolds

D. Carl
Douglas E. Fink
Frank Harker
Vince Jakubowski
Ted Ostrander
Ross E. Rowland

Thomas G. Carlson
Peter Floyd
Harvey E. Heiges
Victor V. Kidd
Mark Podvia
James W. Seville

In Memory of Nathan Kline:

Dave Johnson
Janet R. Jan Mucher

Ryan Lamm
Carl E. Reidler

Lynwood & Eileen Lamm
Henry & Teresa Schaeffer

Peter & Sharon Marsh

In Memory of Rod Lauver:

Theresa & George Berkheimer
James Lampton

Marguerite McNair

Leanna Giancarlo, Nadia & Joseph Magalski
Betsy Povtak

* - All donors listed represent donations received between August 22, 2022 and September 21, 2022. Donations received after September 21 will be reported in the November 2022 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
1777

FEBT NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Things that may have seemed like dreams back in February 2020, when the East Broad Top Railroad was purchased by the EBT Foundation, have now taken shape. Many of those dreams are now a reality, thanks in no small measure to the diligent efforts of the Foundation Board and team.

The Friends of the East Broad Top has been an active partner and supporter of these efforts, working to augment the plans of the Foundation's Board and to further the work of the staff.

To do all this, FEBT relies on two principal resources: People and money.

We need people – volunteers – to do the hands-on work of restoration and rebuilding. Our dedicated FEBT volunteers in Rockhill and Robertsdale contributed over 6000 volunteer hours last year, enabling significant progress on building, track and equipment restoration and museum operations. However, we would like to do more, so we are always looking for more volunteers to accelerate our progress. We'll gladly make use of your existing skills, or we'll happily train you in new ones. See our website at [website at https://febt.org/volunteer/](https://febt.org/volunteer/) for information on how you can participate.



But volunteer efforts are not enough. Preserving and restoring the EBT also takes materials and professional services that require money. This money primarily comes from the FEBT annual fundraising campaign. We will be launching the 2023 campaign at the reunion on Saturday October 8th. This year's campaign will allow us to support the exciting next steps in the rebirth of the EBT. You will also receive a fundraising letter soon with more details on the campaign and how to contribute. – *Gene Tucker and Dave Bulman*



Top Right: EBT Foundation General Manager and FEBT member Brad Esposito gives a safety brief prior to work starting during the September Work Weekend. – Dave Bulman photo
Bottom Right: Track Crew leader Gene Tucker is helped back towards the Rockhill Yard by Dave Wagner after a long day of spiking ties into place south of Oddfellows Cemetery Road. – Daniel Lane photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
October 7 (Friday)	FEBT	FEBT Museum October Archives Day
October 7, 8, 9	FEBT	FEBT Fall Reunion
October 8	RTM	Fall Spectacular
October 15, 16	RTM	Pumpkin Patch Trolley 2022
October 22	RTM	Phantom Trolley
October 22, 23, 29, 30	EBT	Great Pumpkin Patch Express
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

Hosts: 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



The south end of the Car Shop, at the conclusion of the September Work Session. Lots of replaced boards are clearly visible. – Crag Confair photo

UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday November 5th and 6th. 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. – Dave Bulman

UPCOMING ROBERTSDALE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The FEBT Museum is open every Saturday thru October. Contact Pete Clarke if you are interested in serving as a host at the museum. Pete can be reached at febt@aol.com. – Doug Davenport

SEPTEMBER ROBERTSDALE ROUNDUP

September 17 was another Archives Day and archivist Julie Rockwell did not disappoint. She brought maps from the earliest days that showed Mine No. 1 before the long trestle was built (did you know that the mine car track weaved around and came at the EBT track at 90 degrees? We saw the first map I've ever seen that seemed to show the oft-mentioned (but never seen by me) turntable on the engine house lead track. That map also showed Mine No. 3, so the map predates Mine No. 5. It also showed Mine No. 2. Now, finally, I've seen something that tells how they got the coal from Mine No. 2 (which was on the other side of Great Trough Creek and not directly rail-served) to the EBT. She had a map that showed the route and the design of the trestle system that allowed mine cars to be moved from Mine No. 2 to the Mine No. 3 tipple!



Archives Day brings people. People bring knowledge. A visitor explained the use for one of our display items. Evidently, a ticket was not a valid ticket unless it was stamped with issuing station and date. I guess that stamp proved to the train crew that the ticket had been purchased and paid for, not just stolen when the agent had his back turned. We have the stamp for the Coles station. Very cool!

Archives Day. You really don't want to miss it.

FEBT Museum hosts examine drawings of structures that date all the way back to 1875 during the September Archives Day. – Roy Burnham photo

As part of the Reunion weekend activities the museum will be open on Friday 10/7, and that will be another Archives Day. No, that's not a typo – on Reunion weekend the museum will be open on Friday from 10 am to 5 pm. It will also be open on Sunday of Reunion weekend. However, in order that our hosts may enjoy the riding trains, the museum will not be open on Saturday of Reunion weekend. To review, the FEBT Museum will be open Friday 10/7, closed Saturday 10/8, and open Sunday 10/9.

You should have gotten the special issue of this Newsletter with the full schedule of events, so I'll not try to list them here. But I might slip one or two into this article.

More track work has been completed. Usable track now extends for over a mile (6,000 feet, it got even longer since my first draft of this article!). That's a long way! I'm thinking of bribing the track crew to stop adding length. It's exhausting to pump the handcar that far!! I hear plans that might get the engine house lead track back in service, maybe by the Reunion. On Friday of the Reunion weekend, we expect to have a speeder in Robertsdale. So, you can see it without sweating!

Speaking of heat, not to worry if Reunion weekend ends up a hot one. We expect that the new A/C units will be completely functional by then.

The regular walking tour path is now about the same as most state park hiking trails. Easy to follow and no bushes or weeds to push through.



This year the museum is open every Saturday that the railroad runs trains. Rather than mark the end of the season, the Reunion marks the start of the best season. Leaves fall, so more interesting sites become visible. Humidity and temperatures drop so the walk or handcar ride are much more comfortable. So, visit on Reunion weekend and then come back again in prime season. – *Pete Clarke*

Steve Jackson and Pete Clarke discuss FEBT Museum operations, as Roy Burnham inspects the temporary trestle. – Jane Clarke photo

“THAT WAS THE MONTH THAT WAS” FOR THE TRACK GANG



FEBT’s track personnel stretched their wings (working in a variety of locations) and their talents (things like fence construction) during the month of September.

We began the month in Robertsdale on Saturday, the 3rd, which was our contribution to the Work Weekend, constructing a small bridge over a twenty-foot-long washout, and extending the track that’s open for handcar/speeder use southward to a point about 5,800 feet south of the museum. (See related article elsewhere in this issue.)

Then, during the week of September 12th, we finished spiking up the first round of track rebuilding on the main leading south from the Rockhill yard, reaching the north side of the PA 475 crossing. The completed work now extends about 8/10 mile south of the yard. Along the way following that work, we picked up a good deal of steel ties, tie plates and other ferrous material. We assisted preparations for the FEBT Reunion by moving speeders around in the Car Shed so they could be worked on.

We were quite active during the Work Week, September 19th – 23rd, as we tried our hand at fence construction, finishing the split rail fence along the north leg of the wye

The FEBT Track Crew spikes in ties along the main line south of the Rockhill Yard. – Gene Tucker photo

in the Rockhill yard. Next, we began bolt work in the newly rebuilt track leading south from the yard. Then, finally, we applied some more touches to the new bridge in Robertsdale. We also opened up another 200 feet of track for handcar/speeder use there.

A goodly number of our personnel were active during the month, including: Rick Rourke, Joel Myers, Gordon Ley, Kevin Conklin, Ed Kompare, Bill Reynolds, Tom Perman, Chris Wenger, Steve Jackson, John Quinn, Mark Reese, Daniel Lane, and Mike Shay (a new member of the crew). (Sure hope this is a complete list!) During the month, we were greatly assisted by Steve Jackson, who brought his Gator for transporting materials and tools to the Robertsdale work sites, and by Nicholas Brightbill, who assisted the fence project in Rockhill with the operation of machinery to lessen the task of creating post holes.

Like so many FEBT volunteers, some of the names you read above came for more than one day's work last month, and some came a long distance to be present. We are eternally grateful for that sort of dedication! – *Gene Tucker*

The Track Crew was asked to take their craft and apply it at a 90-degree angle. The results are very nice. – Gene Tucker 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 1,700 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.

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.