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Volume 3, Issue 12

December 2022

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*The FEBT Track Crew works to replace ties in the south end of the Rockhill Yard during the November 2022 Work Session. – Dave Bulman photo*



# NOVEMBER ROCKHILL RESTORATION REPORT

We had a strong finish to the 2022 FEBT Rockhill work weekends with the November 5-6<sup>th</sup> session. A large group of FEBT volunteers and pleasant warm weather allowed good progress to be made on multiple projects. The track crew worked tie replacement on the car shop lead. Multiple teams worked on the roundhouse, replacing fascia boards, tuck pointing the brick walls, and reassembling an interior tool cabinet. Work continued on restocking the Storehouse with another 100 bins filled. The rebuilding of the car shop south wall progressed with the installation of the third new large track door. Work continued on Box Car 174 and on Combine 14. The window crew was busy installing rebuilt sashes in the roundhouse and store house. See photos below for more details. – *Dave Bulman*



*Above left: Steve Jacobs, Dave Dietz, and Russ Semen use the cutting torch on Boxcar 174. Above right: Ethan Vogel and Dave Dillow work on restocking rivets on the first floor of the store house. By the end of the weekend a total of 230 bins had been restocked with historic hardware. Right: Craig Confair, Tom Perman, Bill Adams, Brad Esposito, and Bobby Goldby prepare to lift the third new large car shop door into place. – Dave Bulman photos*





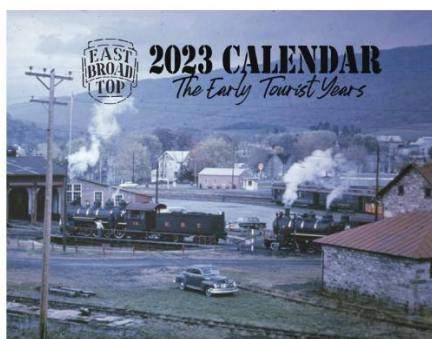


*Left: Bill Adams and Bobby Goldby of the Glass Rattlers complete the installation of the Storehouse windows  
Right: A rear view of the Storehouse with the windows installed. – Dave Bulman photos*



## COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

### Just in Time for the Holidays!



#### Official EBT Wall Calendar

Track your year on this 11"x17" beauty. Shows days in the month to write appointments and notes. Highlights holidays. \$19.99 plus \$5.00 shipping. 15% member discount applies.



#### Kalmbach's EBT Tribute

Your favorite FEBT authors and photographers team with the Kalmbach staff to tell the story of a modern miracle. \$9.95 each plus \$5 shipping. 15% member discount applies.

Order through FEBT Company Store website at [store.febt.org](http://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.

# NOVEMBER FUNDRAISING UPDATE

November was an extremely busy month for the fundraising department. Thanks to a record dollar amount of donations received, FEBT has taken in over 60% of the goal for the 2023 Fundraising Campaign only two months in! A matching grant of up to \$10,000 was announced for November 1-14<sup>th</sup>, and that threshold was well exceeded. Your donations totaled just shy of \$80,000 from a near-record 230 contributions. FEBT appreciates your generosity in funding its goals of restoring, preserving, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad.

## 2023 Fundraising Goal:

\$180,000

## November Donations:

\$79,795.00

## Campaign Total:

\$115,005.62 – 63.9%

### November donors\*:

Walter Albers	Keith Allen	Stephen B. Armstrong	Ronald H. Baile
Joseph Baio	Wayne Baldwin	Roberta Ballard	Jeffrey W. Barkdoll
John E. Bates	Ronald Batory	Ralph Beaumont	Michele Beener
Gary & Roberta Bell	Chuck Bender	David Sutton & Deborah Bennett	
Charles E. Berger	Michael Bezilla	Thomas M. Billy	Paul Binney
Eric Booher	George & Pamela Botic	David Bowman	Alexander Bowser
Joseph R. Brabec	Peter Brown	Roy Burnham	Graham Buxton
Robert G. Caccese	Elisa Campbell	David H. Capp	Larry Card
Thomas Carlson	Paul Carpenito	Ricky G. Case	Wayne P. & Jane F. Cass
Matthew V. Cesare	Albert Churella	Pete & Jane Clarke	Brian Clauto
Craig Close	Keith Clouse	James & Lois Colby	Richard Conard
Gene Coppinger	Robert Courneya	Jan W. Crane	Patty Cupillari-Humphreys
R. Daniel Cupper	Wallace Czekalski	Alton P. Davis Jr.	Michael Davis
Gerard R. Deily	David Dewey	Larry & Joyce DeYoung	Al DiCenso
Donald F. Dickson	Thomas A. Diehl	Marlin Diehl	Ed Dornheim
Clifford Egel	Eric S. Emmons	Linda G. Erdman	George Erhart
Robert D. Etchberger	James Ewing	John D. Faulkner	Axel Feltenberger
Gorman Findley	Douglas E. Fink	William R. Fitch	John W. Fordyce
Fred Forstall	Edmund M. Fox	Carson Freeman	Ronald Freitag
Larry Fuchs	Richard F. Gauthier	Peter Gentieu	Eric V. Gernert
Ted Gingrich	Francis Goad	Eugene A. Graber	Richard Grandzol
Stephen Greif	John G. Guffey	Michael Guida	Robert A. Hadsall
Carroll Hanson	Frank Harker	Daniel B. Harnish	James Harrington
David Hart	Bruce K. Hartman	Charles Hawkins	Scott Heberling
Harvey E. Heiges	James Helmbold	Tom Hesketh	Charles High
Greta Hittle	Robert Hoffman	David Homer	M. Richard Horn
James & Julie Hughes	Peter Hugman	Victor E. Humphreys	John Irwin
Dave Johnson	Wayne E. Johnson	Todd Johnson	Julie K Rockwell LLC
Krissy Kebeck	Walter Keely	Robert Kennedy	Greg Kifer
Chris Kingsley	Charles Klump	Christine Kneppshield	Dave Kominsky
Sonja Koons	Joe A. Kress	Wayne Laepple	William Larduskey
Richard C. Lind	Larry E. Maynard	Garret McCabe	Sean McCaffery
Chris McChesney	David M. McMahon	Robert J. McShea	Sue Mellers
William Melville	Robert M. Menzies II	Michael Miehle	
Jonathan Miller & Dorothy Hockenberry		Joseph H. Miller Jr.	Laurence Miller
James H. Millhouse Jr.	Ted Miskell	Tim Moffat	J. Harold Mohler
Michael D. Moore	Jeanne Morse	Hugh Mose	Ronald J. Muldowney
James A. Murray	Russell Norris	Thomas P. O'Leary Jr.	Al Oslapas
Louis Pane	Thomas Parker	John Paternoster	Don Pattison
Ronald L. Pearson	David Phillips	John Scott Proctor	George C. Querns
David Reichert	Peter Reisiger	John Rogalski	Robert E. Savino
Wesley Schmidt	Randy Scholl	Michael Scholl	Greg Scholl



Donald F. Schultz	Robert Sembach	Jon M. Shade	David Shantz
Tom & Sharon Sharratt		Michael Shay	John Sheets
Roger L. Shimon	W. Stevens Shipman	R. D. Shotsberger	Tom & Hilde Simco
Christopher Simone	Alan Sinclair	Richard Sisson	Robert Smith
Ann R. Sparrough	David R. Stephenson	Gilbert Sterner	Dennis R. Straub
Tom Sullivan	Peter Switalski	Douglas G. Tarr	Rick Taube
Douglas C. Taylor	James Taylor	Robert S. Taylor	Michael Thiele
Alan E. Thomas	David Trussell	Rev. & Mrs. Gene R. Tucker	Bob Turner
Thomas Turner	Richard Ullery	Jeffrey Umberger	Bob Vaughn
Ethan Vogel	Mike & Barbara Wahler		Jeff Wakefield
William Ward	Wayne Castle Properties LLC		Byron West
Thomas Weyandt	Alan Wilber	Sam W. Wilder Jr.	Paula Williamson
Brian Wolfe	David F. Wood	David Work	Donald Woshlo
Ronald R. Yoder	John S. Yoder	John D. Zidik	Ron Ziegler
Larry Zilch Jr.	Robert E. Zischkau Jr.		

In Memory of Jim Aucker:  
William Kcenich

In Memory of Gordon E. Brinthaup Jr.:  
Gordon E. & Patricia Brinthaup

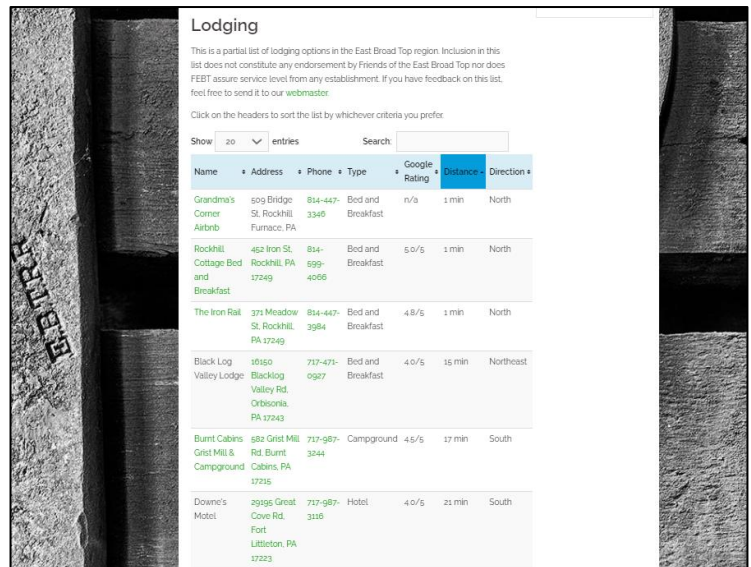
In Memory of Nathan Kline:  
Douglas K. Davenport  
Robert J. Savino

\* - All donors listed represent donations received between October 22, 2022 and November 21, 2022. Donations received after November 21 will be reported in the January 2023 issue due to press time constraints.  
- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

## LODGING NEAR THE EAST BROAD TOP

A frequent question from new volunteers is where to stay when volunteering at the EBT. There is actually a large number of lodging options within a reasonable distance of the railroad. Our FEBT website lists 72 lodging options within an hour of Rockhill Furnace. Go to the Lodging page (<https://febt.org/services/>) under the Visit tab to see the current list. This list includes the name, address, phone number, accommodation type (B&B, hotel, campground, etc), Google rating, and distance to Rockhill Furnace with live links to each website. A snapshot of this list is shown to the right.

Note that although there are many lodging options, many of these may fill up before a given work session. The best way to secure desirable lodging near the EBT is to plan ahead and book early. The 2023 Rockhill volunteer schedule is now available, so plan now to participate and secure your preferred accommodations! – *Dave Bulman*



Name	Address	Phone	Type	Google Rating	Distance	Direction
Grandma's Corner Airbnb	509 Bridge St, Rockhill Furnace, PA	814-447-3348	Bed and Breakfast	n/a	1 min	North
Rockhill Cottage Bed and Breakfast	452 Iron St, Rockhill, PA	814-599-17249	Bed and Breakfast	5.0/5	1 min	North
The Iron Rail	371 Meadow St, Rockhill, PA	814-447-3984	Bed and Breakfast	4.8/5	1 min	North
Black Log Valley Lodge	16160 Blacklog Valley Rd, Orionville, PA	717-475-0927	Bed and Breakfast	4.0/5	16 min	Northeast
Burnt Cabins Grist Mill & Campground	582 Grist Mill Rd, Burnt Cabins, PA	717-967-3244	Campground	4.5/5	17 min	South
Downer's Hotel	29996 Great Cove Rd, Fort Littleton, PA	717-987-3018	Hotel	4.0/5	21 min	South

## FEBT MUSEUM OPEN THREE MORE DAYS IN 2022

The FEBT Museum will be open for the Saturdays of the Christmas in Coal Country event. Those remaining dates are 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17. The hours of operation are 10 AM to 4 PM, which is closing an hour earlier than during the summer tourist season. Handcar rides will be available, weather permitting. – *Doug Davenport*

# 2023 ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER WORK SESSION SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The dates for the 2023 Rockhill Furnace work sessions are now set and are listed below. Please consider coming out for one or more of the sessions to help us continue to preserve and restore the East Broad Top. Visit our website at <https://febt.org/volunteer/> for more information on projects and how you can participate. If you 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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
December 2-4, 9-11, 16-18	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 3	RTM	Santa's Trolley 2022
January 7, 8	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
February 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
March 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 20, 21	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 22-26	FEBT	Rockhill Spring Work Week
June 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 29, 30	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 19, 20	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9, 10	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 18-22	FEBT	Rockhill Fall Work Week
November 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session

<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>

## UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The Track Crew will be replacing ties at the south end of the Rockhill Yard on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you can help, please contact Gene Tucker at [friartuck3@yahoo.com](mailto:friartuck3@yahoo.com). The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 ROBERTSDALE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

Future work sessions in Robertsdale are not yet scheduled. If you'd like to be added to the crew, please contact Pete Clarke at [febt@aol.com](mailto:febt@aol.com) to get added to the crew call list. – Pete Clarke

## NOVEMBER ROBERTSDALE NOTES

The railroad has been closed this month, so the museum in Robertsdale has also been closed. Ever wonder if the museum is open? The answer is easy: if it's a Saturday and the railroad is open, then the museum is also open. So, come on up. We'll be open on 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17 from 10 AM to 4 PM. The leaves are down, the bugs are gone, and it's not hot and sweaty. This may be the best time to take a walking tour. Remember it's colder on the top of the mountain so dress accordingly, and you might want to bring a walking stick in case we find some snow or ice.

The FEBT Museum gift shop now has EBT jigsaw puzzles for sale. Maybe you know someone who needs one for Christmas? We have many other items suitable for gift-giving and stocking-stuffing.

Hurray, on Saturday 11/26 we got primer on the last section of the station soffit. There's some woodwork to do. Then in the spring, when warmer temperatures return, we'll be able to start on the topcoat paint.

— Pete Clarke

## TENDER LOVING CARE IS APPLIED TO CAR SHOP LEADS



*The FEBT Track Crew poses towards the south end of the Rockhill Yard at the end of the day during the November 2022 Work Session. — Gene Tucker photo*

FEBT's track forces have concentrated their recent efforts on the leads between the triple stub switch and the Car Shop, on tie installation south of the Heavy Repair Shop, and in work on the stub switch south of the Car Shop. Here's a summary of our doin's:

- Seven ties were re-installed south of the Heavy Repair Shop, work done to follow up on water line installation for the fire suppression system.
- 80 ties have been set (all by hand) in the two leads between the triple stub switch and the Car Shop. These ties have all been spiked up.
- We engaged in a bit of "living history" on Saturday of the November Work Weekend, by lining one of the leads with lining bars. Our connection with the gandy dancers of times past involved a number of gang members, each one equipped with a lining bar. The bars are set against the rail, and a tap-tap-tap-*push* rhythm was set up by the caller. The work was done (in part) to an old work song ("My ole Jerry is an Arkansas mule"). Coordinating the effort in



this way, in times past, made it possible to do a lot more than a less well-organized effort would have been able to accomplish. Turns out, the process works quite well, and the track was soon a whole lot straighter than it had been.

- Bolt work in the two leads corrected some joint offsets and supplied bolts to joints where there were none on one side of the joint previously.
- The stub switch south of the Car Shop was realigned. The kink in the diverging route was particularly ugly. The switch was realigned by pushing the frog and the leads to the points eastward a few inches, and by pushing the track south of the moveable points westward a bit. The result looks a whole lot prettier than it did.

We can't do all this without the dedication, talent and commitment of people, track people. Since our last report, a goodly number have lent their expertise and effort to the accomplishments cited above, including: Chris Wenger, Rick Rourke, Phil Coyle, Mike Shay, Victor Booth, Larry Fuchs, Tom Hesketh, Bill Reynolds, Mark Reese, Daniel Lane, Gordon Ley, Ed Kompare, Steve Jackson, John Quinn, Kevin Conklin, Dave Hart, Joel Myers, Wayne Cass, Tom Perman, and Tom Jordan. We've also welcomed the following new members of the track fraternity: Dave Johnson, Bob Morningstar, Jim Milheim and Brian Sperl. Great to have you all!

We've also benefitted greatly from the support and the leadership of Henry Long, a fulltime member of the RR's track forces. Henry has recently returned from a multi-month project to construct a new, mile-long 36" gauge track layout in a park in Dayton, OH. Henry's expertise with the bucket of a backhoe was invaluable in realigning the stub switch. He's also supported the work with removal of detritus and in bringing fresh supplies of ties and other material.

*The Track Crew aligns ties at the Car Shop lead switch on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. – Gene Tucker photo*



As we near the end of this calendar year, it's worth looking back at the means and the ways we use to get our work done.

- Bluntly put, we use the means and the materials we have at hand. That's always been the EBT's way, I think, using whatever means are available, and wasting nothing in the process. So, to cite two examples, in the work we've been doing, we've been setting ties by hand (fortunately, the "ballast" in the area south of the Car Shop is mostly cinders and *schmutz* (dirt), making the digging easy). Then too, we're always happy to be able to spike with the air compressor and the gun, but most of us are also familiar with a spike maul when necessary.



- We work at the direction of the railroad's staff. They are the ones who know what the larger plans of things are and the priorities that will advance the railroad's welfare. They also know what resources are available to support the work.

Looking ahead, we plan to continue tie installation south of the Car Shop so long as the ballast isn't frozen. If it is frozen, we'll concentrate on things like spiking up previously-installed ties and other tasks. The triple stub switch could also use some attention. Beyond that, there is work to be done on the yard tracks. To support that work, the Friends recently made it possible to buy a supply of six-foot ties. We will pursue these various tasks throughout the winter, weather permitting.

The Friends' track forces are but one piece of a much greater work that offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to breathe new life into this 150-year-old gem-of-a-railroad. What a privilege to be a small part of that great effort!

A blessed Christmas and holiday season to one and all.  
– Gene Tucker

### MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top  
membership is up to  
**1780**

*The FEBT Track Crew has completed spiking up the Car Shop lead tracks on November 22, 2022. – Gene Tucker photo*



## TIMBER TRANSFER NOTE

Jane belatedly realized that she didn't include Jerry Anderson's website in the credits on page 2 of the *Winter Timber Transfer*. The website is <http://www.jerryandersonart.com>. Please enjoy more of his art online. – Jane Clarke

## 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/](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.