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Mark Reese and Larry Fuchs work on setting a door stop while Tom Perman and Craig Confair work on a hole to set another door stop at the south end of the Car Shop, March 5, 2023. – Eric Knepp photo

IN SEARCH OF A WEDDING COORDINATOR

“We are gathered here together...” wait, wait, not a union, a Reunion coordinator is what the FEBT needs. Yes, FEBT needs someone to organize our annual marquee event, the Fall Reunion. The Reunion Coordinator is responsible for venue arrangements, speaker/program plans, registration, and volunteer coordination. We also need someone to run the Reunion Photo and Model Contests. If interested or at least would like to learn more, please contact Andy at vanscyoc@gmail.com.

– Andy Van Scyoc



Joshua Capp awaits the next speeder trip from Robertsdale to nearly Woodvale during the 2022 FEBT Fall Reunion. Speeder rides over this rare mileage, restored enough for speeders and the handcar by FEBT in 2022, was one of the biggest highlights of last year’s reunion. – Jimmy Braum photo

Friends OF THE EAST BROAD TOP TIMBER TRANSFER

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 1 SPRING 2023



Dedicated To Preserving, Restoring, and Interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad

MEMBERSHIP, *TIMBER TRANSFER* OFFICES CLOSED

The membership guy (and *Timber Transfer* editor) will be gone from 5/19 through 6/20. Due to that, renewal reminders for April, May, and June will be sent out a bit earlier than normal. Please renew promptly so you don’t get caught in the massive pile of work that the membership guy will have to dig out of upon his return. – Pete Clarke

TIMBER TRANSFER NOTE

There was a problem with color balance at the printer which affected the Spring *Timber Transfer*. Steps have been taken to ensure that it won’t happen again. – Jane Clarke

THE FRIENDS AT 40

On May 20th, 1983 the Friends of the East Broad Top officially registered as a corporation in the state of Virginia. That means on May 20th, 2023 we celebrate our 40th anniversary! Details are still being worked out, but save the date to join us on Saturday, May 20th, for a special early-evening train to Colgate Grove. We will enjoy a picnic dinner and 40th celebration at the Grove. Tickets will go on sale soon and will be limited! Please watch for a separate email blast with all the details! – *Andy Van Scyoc*

WHAT DOES A TIE COST?

The Friends of the East Broad Top (FEBT) expresses as its mission the “Preservation, Restoration and Interpretation of the East Broad Top”.

FEBT assists the EBT Foundation (EBTF) by providing the means to augment the EBTF’s Board of Directors’ goals and priorities. Put another way, FEBT provides “more bang for the buck” as the Foundation prepares for a new chapter in the railroad’s future.

Our “more bang for the buck” efforts are devoted, in part, to the railroad’s track. If the track is the foundation of the railroad, then the crossties in the track are the foundation of the track (in addition, of course, to the ballast and sub-ballast).

Crossties support the track structure, and ensure that its alignment, gauge, and surface are in good condition. As track rebuilding has gone forward, the blunt truth that has emerged is that nearly all the ties have needed replacement.

FEBT has allocated a significant amount of money to assist in the purchase of crossties. For example, not long ago, FEBT bought a load of about 300 ties for use in the Rockhill yard. Many of those ties were used in the rebuilding of the leads south of the Car Shop. We’ve also provided the means to buy ties that have been used in rebuilding the track that is regularly used for train operations. We continue to hold in reserve funds from last year’s fundraising efforts to supply ties for the renewal of track south of the Rockhill yard, once that work resumes in the future. This project is awaiting final brush clearing and grading, in order to resume work southward from Route 475 towards the Pogue Bridge.

With this background in mind, what does a tie cost to install? Here’s a fairly reliable set of statistics:

Tie (Note 1)	\$20.00
Spikes (Note 2)	\$6.00
<u>Tie plates (Note 3)</u>	<u>\$7.00</u>
Total:	\$33.00

Notes:

1. Six-foot (yard track) and seven-foot (main track) ties are the same price, delivered. Relay ties.
2. Four spikes per tie are required at \$1.25/spike. (Six per tie are sometimes used on curves.)
3. Two tie plates per tie, used on main track, \$3.50/plate.



A pile of ties stored in the Rockhill Yard awaits installation by the FEBT Track Crews. – Gene Tucker photo

Not included in these figures is the cost of ballast stone. The amount required per tie varies with the circumstances. Difficult to estimate are labor costs. The railroad is currently using a combination of compensated and volunteer (FEBT) labor. If an outside contractor were to be hired to do the installation, the costs might range from \$140.00 to \$160.00/tie, not including the cost of materials. Considerable savings are realized with the work as it is presently being performed by EBTF employees in partnership with FEBT volunteers, in order to maximize the re-opening of the dormant portions of the railroad south to Saltillo. Greater efficiency and savings are realized in the near term, should contractors be used in the future.

FEBT is now in the midst of our annual Fundraising Campaign. Please consider adding your support to the purchase of ties and other materials, and to the goals that have been set for other projects which will benefit from the proceeds of this year's campaign (details on those other projects on our website: www.febt.org). Making donations and gifts is convenient and secure on our website. Or, if preferred, donations may be sent to:

Karen Bulman, Fundraising Treasurer
P. O. Box 43063
Cincinnati, OH 45243

Not only will your contributions augment our efforts, but they are also tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Deep and abiding thanks for your interest and your support! – *Gene Tucker*

FEBT MUSEUM 2023 SCHEDULE

The FEBT Museum will be open every Saturday that the East Broad Top Railroad is operating trains in 2023 (with one exception in October). For those who haven't visited yet, the museum is located at 570 Main St. in Robertsdale, PA, in the Old Post Office Building of the Rockhill Iron & Coal Co. Company Square. There are monthly Archives Days, held on the second Saturday of each month, at which Archivist Julie Rockwell and her staff share unique items they have discovered during the cataloging process they are undertaking. A walking tour of the mining area, showing what remains of the operations of the Rockhill Iron & Coal Co., is available as the weather permits. Admission is set at the very affordable price of free, although donations are happily accepted. Join your hard-working FEBT volunteer museum hosts to learn about the history of the East Broad Top Railroad and its coal-harvesting parent company on any of the following days:

April 1, 8	May 6, 13, 20, 27	June 3, 10, 17, 24
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	August 5, 12, 19, 26	September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
October 6, 8 (Friday & Sunday of FEBT Reunion), 14, 21, 28	December 2, 9, 16	

Several other special events will be held throughout the year, so stay tuned to this newsletter for details on any upcoming events to be held at the FEBT Museum. – *Pete Clarke and Doug Davenport*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
April 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 1, 8	FEBT	FEBT Museum open Saturdays of Easter events
April 1, 2	RTM	Easter EGGspress Trolley
April 1, 2, 8	EBT	Easter on the Rails
May 6	FEBT	FEBT Museum 2023 Season Opening Day
May 6	BTACMHS	2023 Season Opening Day
May 13	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
May 13, 14	EBT	The EBT Goes to War!
May 20	FEBT	40 th Anniversary Celebration
May 20	RTM	Members Day
May 20, 21	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 22-26	FEBT	Rockhill Spring Work Week
June 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 10	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
July 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 8	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
July 29, 30	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 12	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
August 12	FEBT	Robertsdale Community Days – Barbershop Quartet Concert
August 19, 20	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9, 10	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
September 18-22	FEBT	Rockhill Fall Work Week
October 6	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
November 4, 5	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

UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 1st and 2nd. This will be Easter on the Rails at the RR, so we should see and hear lots of steam activity as we work. Dates for the remainder of the work sessions for 2023 are posted on our website, and above. 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 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

FEBT Museum host training will be on April 28th and 29th. If you're interested in becoming a museum host, please contact Pete Clarke at febt@aol.com. – *Pete Clarke*

NEW, BACK IN STOCK, AND COMING SOON TO THE FEBT COMPANY STORE

New in the Company Store:

Robertsdale Freight House Kit from Southern Heritage Models (HO Scale)

From Ric Case's 3-D Printed Models:

"Brownie" Miners Passenger Car Body (HO and O Scale)

3-Bay Hopper Car Body (HO, S and O Scales)

Billmeyer & Smalls Wooden Coal Car Body (3 Styles) (HO, S, and O Scales)

Drawings of Billmeyer & Smalls Wooden Coal Cars by Greg Vaughn

Rockhill Electrical Shop from Banta Modelworks (HO Scale)

Back in Stock:

From Ric Case's 3-D Printed Models:

Ex-Hancock & Calumet 2-Bay Hopper Car Body (HO Scale)

2-Bay Side Dump Hopper Car Body (HO, S and O Scales)

Coming Soon:

Three Springs Depot Kit from Southern Heritage Models (HO & O scales)

Robertsdale Freight House Kit from Southern Heritage Models (O Scale)

From Ric Case's 3-D Printed Models:

Early Billmeyer & Smalls Passenger (HO scale)

Combine 18 (HO scale)

On Sale Now:

Half Price - 2023 EBT Calendar



*Robertsdale Freight Depot kit from
Southern Heritage Models*

Go to the Company Store at <https://store.feht.org/> for more information and to order.

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

EBT Foundry and Pattern Shop in HO Scale



Conceived by
Broad Top
Mountain Models



Designed and
manufactured by
banta modelworks



The footprint is 18 1/4" long by 6 1/2" wide. All laser cut wood plus one 3D printed brick wall. Features precut battens and fencing, trolley in the overhead, timbering in the scrap pile, and appropriate chimneys. The kit follows our usual assembly process of an inner structure covered with siding.

\$168 regular price. Member discount applies. Shipping \$10.

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

MARCH FUNDRAISING UPDATE

With receiving 47 donations totaling nearly \$13,000, FEBT has met and surpassed its goal of \$180,000 for the 2023 Fundraising Campaign. The four objectives of the 2023 campaign; trackwork south from Rockhill to Saltillo nest egg (\$75,000), Rockhill Yard completion of ongoing projects (\$25,000), visitor experience improvements in Robertsdale (\$10,000), and funding the East Broad Top Railroad & Coal Co. Archives & Special Collections Program (\$70,000), are now fully funded. Updates on how these funds are used will continue to be released in this newsletter. Your financial contributions are greatly appreciated, and help FEBT accomplish its goals at every turn. Thank you!!

2023 Fundraising Goal:

\$180,000

March Donations:

\$12,942.68

Campaign Total:

\$191,642.48 – 106.5%

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 Karen Bulman
P.O. Box 43063
Cincinnati, OH 45243

March donors*:

James Armstrong	Alexander Bowser	David Bray	Daniel Cobb
Wade Colyer	George Cook	Douglas Fink	Bobbi Fischer
Jim Fisher	Ray Fritsch	Tyler Gardner	William George
Edward Harlacher	Gary Hart	Robert Holmes, M.D.	Michael Hurlburt
John Irwin	Dave Johnson	Victor Kidd	Keith Kreider
Douglas Langdon	James Lipnitz	Brad Lowans	Jonathan Morningstar
Joshua Nelson	Frank Niver	Ray Oram	David Phillips
Robert Robbins	Richard Rutledge	Daniel Schmidt	Tom & Sharon Sharratt
John Sheets	Peter Smith	Chris Spina	Jeffrey Stoner
Dennis Straub	Thomas Tallentire	Tony White	Edwin Wright
Patrick Yough	Randall Young		

* - All donors listed represent donations received between February 22, 2023 and March 21, 2023. Donations received after March 21 will be reported in the May 2023 issue due to press time constraints.

- Karen Bulman and Doug Davenport

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1885

MARCH ROCKHILL RESTORATION SESSION NOTES

The March 4th and 5th FEBT work session in Rockhill marked the three-year anniversary of the first work weekend after EBTF announcement. What an exciting and busy three years it has been! This weekend had a great turnout with 43 volunteers, including four first time volunteers. The Combine 14 team continued siding installation and paint prep. The Boxcar 174 crew continued metal work to replace the deteriorated bolster. The carpentry crew installed door stop posts outside the new south end Car Shop doors. The track crew continued tie replacement on Track 4 at the south end of the yard. The Storehouse crew restocked 167 bins on the second floor with pipe fittings, and returned sorted bolts to bins on the first floor. Work also continued on windows, shop clean-up, and other tasks. If you'd like to help with these and other projects to restore the EBT, come out and join us. – *Dave Bulman*



Dave Campbell and Doug Linebaugh restock hardware in the second floor of the Storehouse during the March work session. – Dave Bulman photo

MILD WINTER WEATHER EQUALS TRACKWORK PROGRESS



By any measure, the winter which is about to transform itself into spring has been a mild one in the Rockhill area. (I live in nearby Huntingdon, and we've had only two really cold spells, one significant snowfall, and a few other light coatings of the white stuff.)

That mild weather has enabled the railroad's track forces to get a lot done throughout the winter months.

The area in front of the Orbisonia Station has been completely transformed since the last report. Switches and leads were redone, goodly amounts of tie work were accomplished, and the ballast in and around the space where the public will be gathering to board trains has

FEBT Track Crew members Derick Erwin, Tom Perman, Gene Tucker, Larry Fuchs, Mark Reese, David Syiek, and Greg Syiek dig cribs to insert ties under the rails of Track 4 alongside the Car Shop during the March 2023 Work Session. – Eric Knepp photo

been smoothed out and leveled. Chances are that this part of the railroad hasn't looked this good in many years.

With that work in hand, we then turned our attention to the switches and the connecting tracks in the southern part of the Rockhill yard. Beginning with the southern-most switch which connects the wye to the main (Track 2), we made our way northward up the south leg of the wye, improving conditions in that switch, and in the switches that lead off to the coal tipple and to the Car Barn and Tracks 4 and 5.

During the March FEBT Work Weekend, a sizeable crew began the rebuilding of Track 4. Thirty-five ties were installed in the area south of the string of hopper cars. (This work is scheduled to be the focus of April's Work Weekend.)

FEBT's track personnel are an active and committed group. We are blessed that these individuals have assisted our work this month: Bill Reynolds, Daniel Lane, John Quinn, Steve Jackson, Phil Coyle, Jack Fornadley, Larry Fuchs, John Widmeyer (new – welcome!), Tom Hesketh, Joel Myers, Rick Rourke, Gordon Ley, Chris Wenger, Dave Johnson, Craig Confair, Mike Shay, Todd Johnson, Ryan Rimshaw, Norm Wilcox, Tom Perman, Greg Syiek, Dave Syiek, Eric Knepp, Mark Reese and Bill Adams. Some of these were able to devote more than one day to this month's efforts.

We invite you to join us! We on the track crew think we have more fun than just about anyone at the railroad. (In the midst of all this fun, we also manage to get things done.) – Gene Tucker



The results of the EBT Foundation and FEBT working together to resurrect the East Broad Top Railroad are on display in this March 14th picture of the rejuvenated trackage on the north end of the Rockhill Yard. – Gene Tucker photo

MARCH ROCKHILL VOLUNTEERS

The following members participated at the March 4th and 5th Rockhill volunteer session. Thanks to all for their dedicated efforts to preserve the EBT.

Bill Adams
Dave Capp
Dave Dietz
Jim Esposito
Bobby Goldby
Ben Leese
Jeff Miller
Mark Reese
Roger Stier
Andy Van Scyoc
Linda Wertz

Victor Booth
Keith Clouse
Dave Dillow
Larry Fuchs
Charlie High
Alan Levy
Allen Modoro
Kevin Scanlon
David Syiek
Mike Wahler
Timothy Reams

Dave Bulman
Craig Confair
David Ebright
Alaric Gallo
Steve Jacobs
Doug Linebaugh
Dave Padula
Russ Semen
Gregory Syiek
Rick Wertz

Dave Campbell
Alex Cook
Derick Erwin
Charles Geletzke
Eric Knepp
Jonathan Miller
Tom Perman
Chris Spina
Gene Tucker
Charlie Wootton

MARCH NOTES FROM ROBERTSDALE

Yes, we still need more folks to volunteer to host in Robertsdale. You will enjoy it. Just last Saturday 8 of us took a winter walk around. All had a great time (the weather was perfect and there was little underbrush) and we learned more about the area. Just one more benefit of being a host! Contact me to learn more. My email is easy to remember, febt@aol.com.

The article in the Spring *TT* by Ron Pearson, Vagel Keller, and Ric Case about the Mine 3/5 area was great. Wouldn't it be cool if you could go walk around this area with a guide to help point things out? Oh, that's right, you can! We hope to see you at the museum this year.

At the Winter Spectacular a member approached me and voiced an interest in being the librarian for the museum. I didn't catch his name or email. I'm hoping you still want to and will contact me – at febt@aol.com. – *Pete Clarke*

ODDS AND ENDS



The Storehouse lean-to area concrete floor was installed on March 20, 2023. This was funded by your contributions to the 2023 Restoration Campaign. The new floor will allow the reconstruction by FEBT volunteers of the lean-to structure, which connected the stone house and the Storehouse. The deteriorated original lean-to was removed to allow structural restoration of the Storehouse. The lean-to reconstruction is planned to be a focus of our May work week. – *Dave Bulman*

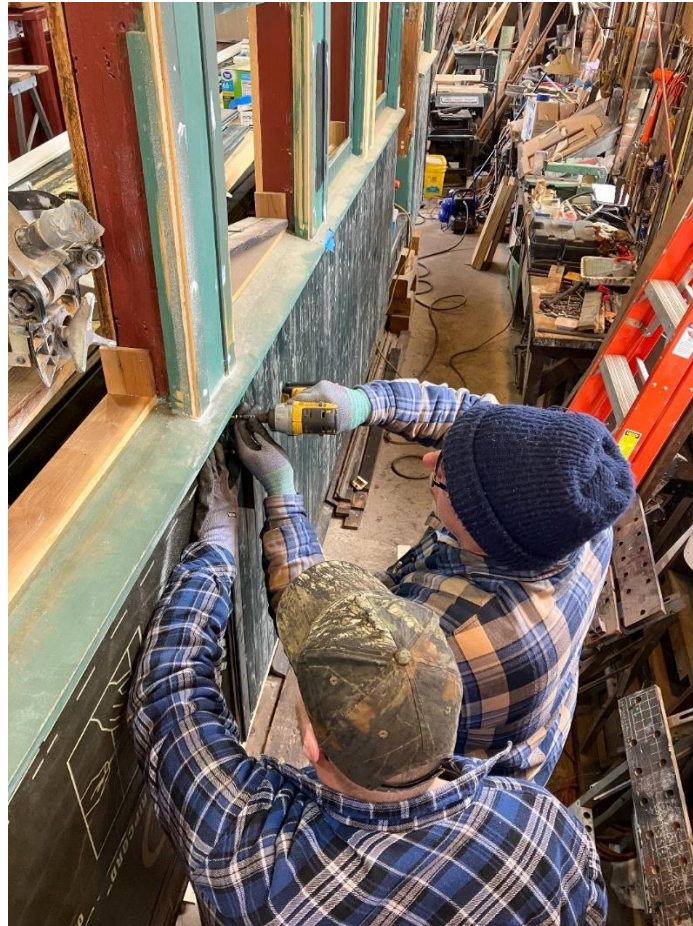
The East Broad Top is being featured for a fourth time on the cover of *Trains* magazine. Previous cover features happened in November 1953, June 1961, and January 1982. The May 2023 issue will include an article on restoration of Mikado No. 16 on Page 40. Copies of this issue will be available through the Company Store in mid-April. – *Dan Cupper and Doug Davenport*



A new video is available on YouTube for free about the rebirth of the East Broad Top. It includes lots of highlights of past and present FEBT projects, and is directed and produced by former FEBT director Nick Ozorak and his company Streamliner Media LLC. Please check it out at <https://youtu.be/WMvU-IgPE-A>. – Doug Davenport

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 1,800 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.



Jeff and Jonathan Miller install new siding on Combine 14 during the March Work Session. – Eric Knepp 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.