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# NEWSLETTER

Preservation Restoration Interpretation

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Volume 4, Issue 5

May 2023

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*No. 16 builds steam pressure behind the assembled group of FEBT volunteers on the morning of April 1, 2023, during the early April FEBT Rockhill Work Session. – Brad Esposito photo*

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*No. 16 peers from behind coal hoppers in the Rockhill yard during a Lerro Photography photo shoot during the final week of April. – Dave Camisa photo*

# THE FRIENDS AT 40 CELEBRATION

Celebrate the FEBT's 40th Anniversary with your family, friends, and fellow EBT fans on May 20, 2023 with a train ride and early-evening picnic in Rockhill Furnace, PA. Each ticket includes a train ride behind the newly restored 2-8-2 Mikado steam engine No. 16 to Colgate Grove and return and a catered cookout picnic and cake.

The train departs Orbisonia station at 4:30 PM. The event is rain or shine. Tickets are available for purchase only by FEBT members and to be used by the member and their immediate family. A maximum of four tickets per member can be purchased. Children under 8 years of age ride free with accompanying adult member.

Hurry, the number of tickets is limited!

Go to [store.febt.org](https://store.febt.org) to buy your tickets now. Please note that you must log in as a member to access the ticket page which will then appear at the top of the left Category menu. – *Andy Van Scyoc*



## ARCHIVES 2022 INTERN EARNS STATE RECOGNITION

The East Broad Top Archives and Special Collections is proud to announce that Juniata College senior and FEBT member, Brian Standfest '23, the archives' 2022 intern, recently received notice of his recognition for his work in the archives as the 2022 JoAnne Day Student of the Year in the Liberal Arts category by PennACE (the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Employers).



*Brian Standfest, Juniata College '23, in the Orbisonia Station Chief Engineer's Office vault. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo*

Mentored by EBT Archivist, Julie Rockwell, Standfest, studying history and museum studies, completed an 8-week internship working onsite at the Orbisonia Station in Rockhill Furnace. Standfest's internship focused specifically on the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) Heritage Grant project, "Preservation of the East Broad Top Railroad Architectural and Engineering Maps and Drawings." The grant was awarded to the archives in May 2022 for \$5000.00 to purchase a wide-format scanner.

Standfest's work significantly advanced the project by completing an inventory of over 1000 maps and drawings from the EBT and Rockhill Iron and Coal Company collections. Working in Google sheets, Standfest would enter subject data for each map or drawing by 'item level', such as title, date, era, description, condition, and measurements.

In addition to the inventory, he created a data dictionary to describe each data field and notate its data entry standard, and a standard operating procedure for the maps and drawing inventory workflow. Standfest was also responsible for cleaning the maps and drawings to prepare them for scanning, formal cataloging, and permanent preservation, and assisted Rockwell and Archives Technician, Sammy Bellin (Juniata College '22) with managing day-to-day archives activities.

You can read more about Standfest's PennACE JoAnne Day Student of the Year Award from the [Juniata College Campus News](#) and read an article written by Standfest about his internship experience in the August 2022 FEBT Newsletter. Congratulations, Brian! – *Julie Rockwell*

# BROAD TOP MINERS MUSEUM TO OPEN FOR SEASON

The Robertsdale-based Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society and Coal Miners Museum is on schedule for its seasonal opening, the society's board of directors announced at a recent meeting held in the museum.

With winter behind them and warmer temperatures gracing the area, the society board announced that the museum will open for the 2023 season on Saturdays, starting May 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum will remain open on Saturdays only until Oct. 25, although group tours are welcomed throughout the year.

The museum reopened last August in the Reality Theatre, operating until the end of October. The opening followed a challenging relocation from the former Robertsdale United Methodist Church to the Reality Theatre last year. The society-owned church was sold to the Reality Church of God in December 2022.



Most of the theatre seats were scrapped and several improvements made to the former cinema while the theatre's large CinemaScope screen and some of the theatre projection equipment are being used as part of the various exhibits inside the building.

By eliminating exhibit duplication and other changes, the theatre space was turned into an exhibit area encompassing the downstairs of the theatre and upstairs balcony. In addition, several large pieces of old mining equipment was moved from the church to a display area outside the theatre. Additional improvements to the exhibit are scheduled for late this spring.

*The Reality Theatre building hosts the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum in Robertsdale, just a short walk from the FEBT Museum. – Ron Morgan photo*

Some major and expensive improvements have been slated for the coming months including the installation of a new metal roof, replacement of several windows with energy-saving openings while a set of new overhead fans will be installed inside the theatre to assist in heating the auditorium. In addition, some façade improvements will be made inside and outside the building.

Also, on the planning table are plans to install digital projection equipment that will enable the historical society to show movies on the large theatre screen originally utilized when the Reality Theatre was in operation between 1948 and 1986. Throughout April, museum staffers will be busy cleaning and updating the exhibits as well as other tasks in time for the May 6 reopening.

The society will continue its cooperative activities with the Friends of the East Broad Top (FEBT) who will continue to operate a museum complex on Saturdays on Robertsdale's historic "Company Square." The FEBT activities will include rides on a mile of restored EBT right of way between Robertsdale and Wood.

As progress continues with the EBT restoration project, the society pledged its support and cooperation with future endeavors of the East Broad Top Railroad Foundation.

The Coal Miners Historical Society will also work closely with numerous other legacy related organizations in the promotion of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties' rich transportation and industrial heritage as well as a reprint of the society's visitors guide/brochure.

The society also renewed its memberships with the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau and the Bedford County Visitors Bureau which will distribute and promote the Coal Miners Museum and various activities during 2023.

Visitors are invited to view a series of coal miners' memorial plaques inside the theatre as well as numerous albums containing information about Broad Top area coal miners.

Society research librarians Dennis Fields and Carolyn Carroll are also updating the research library while the museum gift shop is being prepared for the grand opening.

The Society needs financial support and new (or reinstated) members. The cost of memberships: senior citizens and military (active or retired), \$15; individuals, \$20; and family, \$30. Note that your membership allows unlimited admission to the museum, along with periodic newsletters. Mail information and checks (made payable to the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum) at the address listed below.

The museum is located just off of Route 913 in Robertsedale at 704 Main St. Write to the museum at Box 231, Robertsedale, PA, 16674.

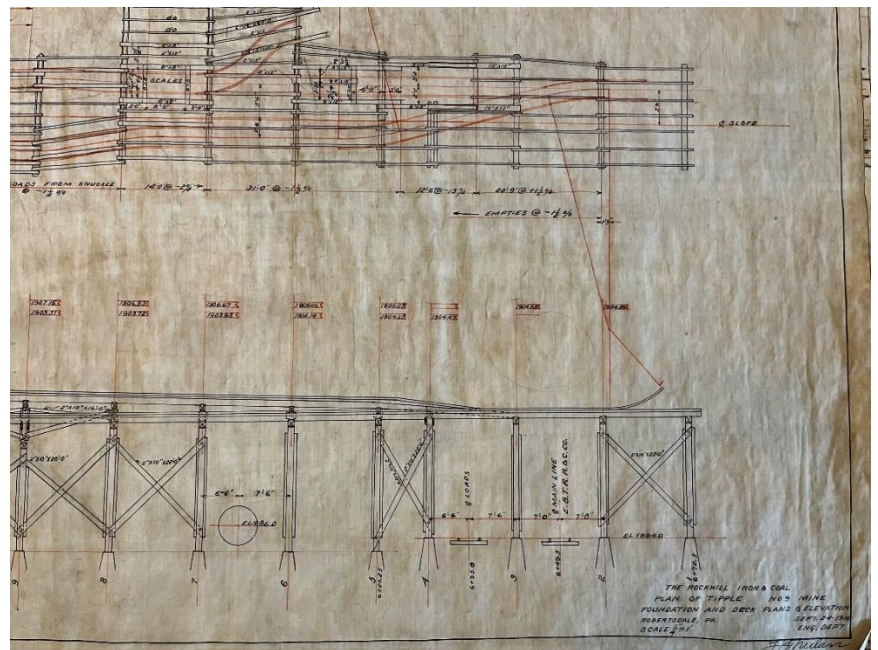
To learn more about the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society and Coal Miners Museum, telephone 814-907-1788 or log onto the society's website at [www.broadtopminersmuseum.com](http://www.broadtopminersmuseum.com).

## ARCHIVES DAYS RETURN TO ROBERTSDALE MUSEUM

The East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections is excited once again to feature monthly Archives Days at the Robertsedale Museum for the 2023 tourist excursion season! EBT Archivist Julie Rockwell and Archives Technician Sammy Bellin will showcase a unique variety of historic documents, maps, drawings, and artifacts that represent the Rockhill Iron and Coal Company, Robertsedale, and the neighboring coal mining communities along the EBT right of way.

As many of these coal company records found in the Orbisonia Station vaults and map drawers continue to be inventoried, interpreted, and prepared for permanent preservation, the archives team is also working hard to catalog and scan these materials for public access displayed on their [Digital Catalog](#). So even if you can't attend an Archives Day this year in person, you can enjoy them online and still be a part of the archives experience.

Archives Days will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, May – September. We hope to see you for our first day on May 13 – come see the recently discovered “tipple” drawings! – *Julie Rockwell*



*The Rockhill Iron and Coal, Plan of Tipple, No. 9 Mine, September 24, 1916. One of many artifacts assessed into the EBTRR Archives and Special Collections program. – Julie Rockwell photo*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
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 <sup>th</sup> 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, 11	EBT	Orbisonia Antique Power Show
June 10	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
July 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 8	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
July 8	EBT	First Responder's 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
September 21-24	EBT	Ragtime at the Railroad
October 6	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
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 next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, immediately followed by the Spring Work Week May 22<sup>nd</sup> thru May 26<sup>th</sup>. Dates for the remainder of the work sessions for 2023 are posted on our website, and above. 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](mailto:rhrestoration@febt.org). – *Dave Bulman*

## UPCOMING ROBERTSDALE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

No volunteer events are currently scheduled. – *Pete Clarke*

## FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

<i>Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM</i>	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

# FEBT COMPANY STORE

## NEW, BACK IN STOCK AND COMING SOON

### New in the Company Store:

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

EBT Rockhill Electrical Shop kit from Banta Modelworks (HO Scale)

From Ric Case's 3-D Printed Models:

1860 Companion Coach to the Brownie (HO Scale)

Combine 18 Round Roof (HO)

Combine 18 Clerestory (HO)

### Back in Stock:

EBT Storehouse kit from Banta Modelworks (HO)

EBT Coles Station kit from BTS (HO)

EBT Saltillo Station kit from BTS (HO)

### Coming Soon:

EBT 3 Springs Depot kit from Southern Heritage Models (HO)

EBT Blacksmith Shop kit from Banta Modelworks (HO)

### Just in:

May 2023 Trains Featuring #16 on the cover



### On Sale Now:

2023 EBT Calendar \$10 That's Half Price!



Robertsdale Freight Depot  
from Southern Heritage Models

## COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

### EBT Electrical Shop



The Electrical Shop, from Banta Modelworks, in Rockhill is an integral part of the EBT's shop complex and contributed to the railroad's self-sufficiency.

As true to the century-old prototype as possible, the features of this HO scale kit include:

Laser cut floor, interior framing, roof rafters, walls, battens, doors, windows, and sub-roof for construction ease and excellent fit. Corrugated metal roofing material is also included.

Footprint is approximately 5 3/4" by 4". Designed and manufactured by Banta Modelworks. Photos show a completed and painted kit. Photos of this craftsman kit courtesy of Bill Banta.



**\$65.00 Member Discount Applies Shipping \$10.00**

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 on merchandise and shipping total. Send mail orders to: FEBT Company Store, c/o J. Quinn, 121 Chester Drive, PO Box 215, Pine Grove Mills, PA USA 16868-0215

# APRIL FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The April reporting period was a strong one for FEBT fundraising. 80 donors contributed just shy of \$23,000 towards the goals of the organization. This has put FEBT up over \$73,000 in donations this calendar year, and in excess of \$214,000 for the fundraising campaign period. This month's totals, both in quantity and amount, are all-time highs for donations received in the month of April. Thank you to all who have provided donations to help accomplish the 2023 goals that FEBT has laid out. Please continue to read this newsletter for more information as to how the funds are spent in support of our mission.

**2023 Fundraising Goal:**  
\$180,000  
**March Donations:**  
\$22,886.64  
**Campaign Total:**  
\$214,529.12 – 119.2%

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

April donors\*:

- |                         |                  |                                 |                       |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Victor Alexander        | Richard Anderson | David Antes                     | Roberta Ballard       |
| Bruce Bowie             | Alexander Bowser | David Brautigam                 | James Brehm           |
| Leon Brewer             | Peter Brown      | David Capp                      | D Carl                |
| Hal Clawson             | Keith Clouse     | Gordon Cochrane                 | Bruce Courter         |
| Delmarva Chapter – NHRS |                  | David Dewey                     | Jim Dimond            |
| Dr. Lynn Dolan          | Clifford Egel    | David Eisenberg                 | Lawrence Endler       |
| Carl Fabrizio           | Douglas Fink     | Robert Fontana                  | Peter Gores           |
| William Grow            | Thomas Haag      | Frank Harker                    | Daniel Harnish        |
| Herbert Hays III        | James Hickey     | Richard Holstrom                | Don Hopkins           |
| Michael Hurlbert        | Ian Jenner       | Dave Johnson                    | Thomas Jordan         |
| Victor Kidd             | R Bruce Kutch    | Allen Landis                    | Thomas Leister        |
| George Lind             | Dennis Livesey   | Brad Lowans                     | Robert Markle         |
| Laurence Miller         | James Murray     | Richard Onorevole               | Thomas Parker         |
| Albert Ringshauser      | Joseph Rizzotti  | John Rogalski                   | Douglas Rowland       |
| Ronald Saputski         | Andrew Seitzer   | Jerry Severson                  | Tom & Sharon Sharratt |
| Robert Soars            | Donald Stark     | Gil Sterner                     | Daniel Summers        |
| Alan Thomas             | Donald Way       | Lee Wheeler                     | John Wheeler          |
| Sam Wilder              | Craig Williams   | Kenneth Willis & Sally Mazzitti |                       |
| Edward Wood             |                  |                                 |                       |

In Memory of A. Gregory Gutsell Jr.:  
Gregory Gutsell, D.D.S.

\* - All donors listed represent donations received between March 22, 2023 and April 21, 2023. Donations received after April 21 will be reported in the June 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  
**1878**



## IN MEMORIAM: GORDY LEY

The FEBT track gang fraternity suffered the loss of one of its most active members, Gordon “Gordy” Ley, on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Gordy was present nearly every week, often for more than one day, to contribute to our work. An energetic 69-year-old, he had a wonderful sense of humor and a wide expanse of interests in a number of subjects. Gordy was a retired printer, who worked at the Gettysburg Times newspaper.

As much as Gordy loved working track, he also loved to explore caves, and it was during that activity that he drowned while negotiating a section of a cave where the water was very high, requiring a person to submerge in order to get through the area of high water. Those who were with him at the time attempted CPR to revive him, without success.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and grandchildren. His memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, in Fairfield, Pennsylvania, where he lived.

We will miss him greatly! – Gene Tucker



*FEBT Track Crew members pose at the pilot of No. 16 on the Rockhill turntable. Gordy Ley is in the second row, just left of center in his red hard hat. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo*

## APRIL WORK SESSIONS DISPLAY RESULTS



April was a busy month for FEBT volunteers at Rockhill Furnace. Two weekend volunteer sessions were held, the first on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the second on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had a total of 43 volunteers participate during April. The first weekend coincided with the EBT’s Easter on the Rails, and volunteers enjoyed the sights, sounds, and smells of engine No. 16 while working on their projects. The weather was good, and we had 33 volunteers on Saturday and 22 on Sunday. The second session last weekend had a little rain on Saturday, but nice weather on Sunday, with 27 on Saturday, and 18 on Sunday.

*FEBT volunteers getting an update on EBT Foundation activities from GM Brad Esposito prior to the start of the Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> session. – Dave Bulman photo*

Progress continued on Combine 14, with additional painting, detailing, and seat reassembly. Volunteers Eric Knepp and Charlie Wootton, among others, continued working on this project in the Paint Shop and in the Carpentry Shop.



*Left: Seat parts have been fabricated to replace any portions that are no longer serviceable. – Andy Van Scyoc photo  
Center: Once rebuilt, the seats are covered prior to the rattan covering being installed. – Andy Van Scyoc photo  
Right: Charlie Wootton paints siding for Combine 14 inside the combine, inside the Paint Shop. – Al Gallo photo*

Lots of progress was made on Boxcar 174, with welding of new side sill and bolster parts completed.



*Left: Russell Semen sets up equipment while Ben Bilott makes measurements for Boxcar 174. – Eric Knepp photo  
Right: New bolster pieces were drawn up by Steve Jacobs, and then fabricated by William and Ben Bilott. – Andy Van Scyoc photo*

The Storehouse team continued returning the remaining hardware to bins, while the carpentry crew rebuilt the first floor window opening that had been used as a temporary door, and began prepping for the rebuilding of the lean-to between the Storehouse and the Stone House. This included roof repair on the Storehouse, and preparation for gutter installation on both the Storehouse and Stone House. The Glass Rattlers continued painting restored window sashes and completed installation of the Storehouse first floor window. The track crew was busy installing piles of ties and restoring track in the yard. If you'd like to help with these and other projects to restore the EBT, come out and join us.

The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, followed immediately by the May work week May 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. May 20 is also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FEBT, and volunteers are encouraged to participate in the evening train ride and picnic to celebrate. We are also planning to again



provide lunch each day of the work week and have a cook out Wednesday evening. New projects expected during the work week include prepping the M-7 for new paint and rebuilding the store house lean-to. Dates for the remainder of the work sessions for 2023 are posted on our website.

Please consider coming out for one or more of the sessions to help us continue to preserve and restore the East Broad Top. 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). Visit our website at <https://febt.org/volunteer/> for more information on all of our volunteer projects and how you can participate. – Dave Bulman ([dbulman115@gmail.com](mailto:dbulman115@gmail.com)) – Dave Bulman

*The completed Storehouse first floor window. The sill of this window was below ground prior to the Storehouse restoration. The opening had been used as a temporary door to move hardware back into the first floor. – Dave Bulman photo*



*Craig Confair makes repairs to the Storehouse roof prior to the lean-to being reinstalled during the upcoming Spring Work Week in May. – Al Gallo photo*

# APRIL ROCKHILL VOLUNTEERS

The following members participated during the volunteer work sessions on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and/or 23<sup>rd</sup> in Rockhill. Thanks to all for their dedicated efforts to preserve the EBT.

Bill Adams	Ben Bilott	Victor Booth	Dave Bulman
Karen Bulman	Dave Capp	Craig Confair	Chris Connacher
Alex Cook	Van Cresswell	Mike Dauner	Dave Dietz
Dave Ebright	Tom Faust	Bill Freeman	Larry Fuchs
Al Gallo	Bobby Goldby	David Hart	Steve Jacobs
Tom Jordan	Eric Knepp	Doug Linebaugh	Bob Meek
Mike Minatelli	Allen Modoro	Dave Padula	Tom Perman
Timothy Reams	Mark Reese	Jon Rudman	Tim Schindele
Russ Semen	David Sommers	Roger Stier	Aaron Stilson
Gene Tucker	Andy Van Scyoc	Mike Wahler	Richard Wertz
Linda Wertz	Charlie Wootton		

## 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*

## ANOTHER BUSY MONTH FOR THE TRACK GANG



In order to compose my monthly column for the newsletter, I keep a record of what the track gang's done in the previous month, along with a list of the names of those who've made all the good things happen that happened. The notes for this month's report fill four complete pages of notebook paper... We've been busy!

Much of the focus of our work in late March and April has continued to be in the Rockhill yard. We've worked on the switch leading to Track 3 and the Ready Track/Paint Shop switch and its attendant leads. We also continued tie installation on Tracks 4 and 5. At the early April Work Weekend, 50 ties were installed in Track 4 and 25 were installed in Track 5, a total of 75 ties and a new one-day record! At the late April Work Weekend, 50 more ties were installed in Track 5, bringing the totals to 100 ties installed in Track 5 and 75 in Track 4.

We did tackle two other major projects, however.

*A southward facing view of Track 5 from April 22, 2023 shows the progress made by the Track Crew. New ties installed in Track 4 are also visible. – Gene Tucker photo*

The right-of-way received two days' work cutting brush and picking up trash. This work extended from the north side of the Blacklog Creek bridge to Colgate Grove, and was done in preparation for photo charters that took place late in April.

Then, during the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>, we assisted the Rockhill Trolley Museum with work on the switches leading into Car Barn # 2. This project involved work on 80 previously installed ties in five switches. Gauge correction, spiking up, leveling, tamping and ballast regulation were involved. Eleven of our number were able to assist over the five days involved in the work.

FEBT's track gang works at the direction of the railroad's staff. Most weeks, we are present for two days midweek, working side-by-side with the railroad's track foreman, Henry Long and members of the staff. On Work Weekends, we work on projects that have been approved by the staff. Our goal is to augment the staff's ability to get the things done that advance the railroad's well-being and goals.



*Like a good neighbor, the FEBT Track Crew is there, assisting the Rockhill Trolley Museum in the Car Barn 2 yard area with tie replacement during the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>. – Gene Tucker photo*



*During a mid-week trackwork session on April 4<sup>th</sup>, the crew levels and regauges the Paint Shop and Roundhouse lead tracks on the western edge of the Rockhill yard. – Gene Tucker photo*

We are greatly blessed to have a good-sized pool of human talent to make all these things happen. It's important to name names in order to say "thank you" for the contributions of all those who've devoted their time and talent to our efforts. The following have assisted our work since the last report: Phil Coyle, John Quinn, Larry Fuchs, Daniel Lane, Bill Reynolds, Bruce Santichen (father), Justin Santichen (son), Gordon Ley, Mark Reese, Tom Hesketh, Tom Perman, Dave Hart, Tom Jordan, Jon Rudman, Jerry Bertoldo, Tim Reams, Doug Linebaugh, Chris Wenger, Dave Johnson, Mike Dauner, Rick Rourke, Carl Salomon, Mike Shay and Joel Myers. Since our last report, we've welcomed some new members of the group: John Widmeyer, Alaric "Al" Gallo, Tim Schindele, Bill Freeman, Mike Minatelli, Van Cresswell... welcome to each of these. In addition, on March 28<sup>th</sup>, two members of the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington's staff, Joe and Dan, joined us (we liked them so much we told them we didn't think they should return to Maine).

Looking ahead, it looks as though we'll be involved in tie installation on the main north of the Blacklog Creek bridge, and we will continue our tie installation project on Track 4 in the Rockhill yard.

Join us trackside! We have a lot of fun, we work hard, and we accomplish a whole lot of good stuff for the betterment of the EBT and the FEBT. – Gene Tucker

## ROBERTSDALE NOTES FOR MAY

The museum opens for the season on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. It's open (almost) every Saturday from then until October 28 and then opens again for the Christmas in Coal Country events of December 2, 9, & 16.

Hey Pete, can you explain that "almost" comment? Plans for the fall reunion are not yet final but we predict they will follow the framework of the past two years, so, the museum will likely be open on Friday and Sunday, but closed on Saturday of reunion weekend (so the hosts can join in the reunion activities).

What's to do in Robertsdale, anything new? Well, I'm glad you asked. As noted in another article in this newsletter, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month will be "Archives Day" at the museum. These have been, and should continue to be, our most popular days.

New this year, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month the librarian will have the library open. Members may come and read from any of the books, magazines, and other items we have at the museum. Hopefully by the time you read this there will be listing of library contents on the FEBT website. How long have you waited to read that announcement!!! Well, the wait is over.



*Pete and Jane Clarke lead Rick Rourke, Don Barton Jr., and John Widmeyer south on the walking tour path during FEBT Museum host training on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Hosting is so much fun that no one minded the rain.  
– Evert DeMott photo*

New items for sale. Prints of Jane's favorite *TT* cover shots can now be purchased, also reproduction Robertsdale and Orbisonia station signs, small acorn style EBT heralds by Iron Horse Engraving, and we have a wider selection of books than ever before. Do you have your Robertsdale polo shirt?

As I write this the rail bikes have not yet been delivered. But we hope to have them soon. I expect we'll let you know once we have them.

So, what's in Robertsdale? Wonderfully informative museum displays. Cool stuff you can purchase, much of it not available anywhere else. Walking tours (have I mentioned that we continue to learn more and get better pictures from the archives?). Handcar tours. Soon, rail bike tours. And a library where you can read those books you can't get. Friendly, helpful, informative hosts.

June will be EBT Gift Shop Kitsch month. Our hosts and other members (You!) will lend the museum their souvenirs from the EBT gift shop. I expect some really cool, and some really tacky items. There might be some real gems! Bring the items you'd like to display to the museum during the month of May so we can start the display at the beginning of June. Your items will be tagged to be sure that you can pick them up again in July. Like children, you can leave them for a while, but you must come back and pick them up.

I don't want to get too far ahead of myself, but August 12 is also Robertsdale Community Days. The ball field will be full of vendors, including food vendors, making that the only day you can buy lunch in Robertsdale. Did you know that the museum building (the old post office) also used to have a barbershop in it? So, we've arranged to have a barbershop

quartet come sing from 1 to 3 PM on that day. Oh, and it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of August so it's both Archives and Library day.

Summary? Starting May 6, the museum is open each Saturday through October. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month is both Archives Day and Library Day. The 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month is Library Day. Walking tours at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, & 3:00 PM. Handcar tours on demand - until we get too hot & tired! Soon, railbike tours. One adjustment to the hours will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>, as the museum will close at 3:00 that day to allow the hosts to enjoy the FEBT 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

All of that, and don't forget to visit the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum, just a short walk from the FEBT Museum. So, be sure to allocate time for your visit. You may need to come several times! – *Pete Clarke*

## BOD ELECTION BALLOTS

Ballots for the 2023 FEBT Board of Directors election were mailed in late April. You likely received it this past week. An error was noticed on the ballots in the number of candidates that each member could vote for. There are four seats up for election in this cycle, while the ballot mistakenly stated that each member could vote for up to five candidates. The top four vote-earning candidates will be elected. Please ensure your ballot is postmarked by June 15<sup>th</sup> to be considered.

– *Doug Davenport*

*The FEBT Track Crew pauses from its mission on Track 5 to take in the passing Easter on the Rails steam train on April Fool's Day. – Eric Knepp 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 1,800 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/](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.