

NEWSLETTER Preservation Restoration Interpretation

Volume 5, Issue 4

April 2024



FEBT members gather to hear updates from EBT Foundation General Manager Brad Esposito and Director of Engineering James Roslund during the rainy Saturday morning of the March Work Session. – Eric Knepp photo

IN THIS ISSUE:

Other Duties as Assigned: The Track Crew's Work in March	3
New FEBT Volunteer Information Questionnaire	5
March 2024 Rockhill Restoration Work Session Notes	5
March FEBT Museum Happenings	6
EBT Minute Books Available for the First Time	8
Archives Continues to Unpack Maps and Drawings in the Vaults	8
Miners Museum Prepares for 2024 Season	9
Robertsdale ROW Clearing Continues	11
FEBT 2024 Campaign Reaches Milestones in March	13
March Fundraising Update	14
FEBT'S Youth Program Begins to Take Shape	14
March Volunteers	15
Wants and Needs	15
2024 FEBT Spring Walk Cancelled	15
Company Store Item of the Month	16
FEBT Company Store Spring Sale Items	16
Upcoming Events	17
Upcoming Rockhill Furnace Volunteer Sessions	17
FEBT Museum Schedule	17



Progress continues with the door replacement on the north end of the Car Shop. – Al Gallo photo

OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED: THE TRACK CREW'S WORK IN MARCH

"March comes in like a lion, and leaves like a lamb," or so the old saying goes. For the FEBT track crews, the varieties of March's weather didn't manage to deter us from getting an enormous amount done, whether it was a helping of cold and bitter working conditions, or summer-like warmth and sunlight. So much has been accomplished since the last report (Mother Nature's offerings notwithstanding) that I'm not sure where, exactly, to begin. So, perhaps I ought to simply pick a beginning point and go from there. Here we go:



Enhancements to the Machine Shop and Car Shop Complex

For 2024, expanded tours of the railroad's shop complex will be a part of the offerings that visitors will be able to experience. To support this expanded aspect of our welcome to the riding and visiting public, track crews worked to reconstruct some of the parts of the complex that supported the work that took place in the shops in times past.

We reconstructed a dual gauge tramway system outside the north entrance to the Machine Shop. The dual gauge system consisted of a three-foot gauge track where wheelsets were stored. Sharing a common center rail, a 20.5-inch gauge tramway led to one of the Car Shop leads, where wheelsets that had been removed from cars that were under repair could be transferred on an ingeniouslydesigned cart to the entryway to the Machine Shop for work there. A photo shows this one-of-a-kind cart, with a wheelset mounted on it to show how it worked.

Track crews also continued work on the two-foot tramway inside the Car Shop, where a cart was used to bring lumber and other materials into the shop. During the days of the wooden-bodied hopper cars, this tramway made it possible to bring materials from the Lumber Shed on the south side of the shop into the shop. The tramway begins in the reconstructed wooden floor of the Car Shop. Currently, the track has been rebuilt to a point outside the Car Shop.



These enhancements will permit visitors and participants in the expanded tours to get a better idea of how the complex operated.

Have Brush, Will Cut

Our personnel tackled brush cutting assignments, working at the Pogue bridge on the south and north approaches, and also under the bridge. We also cut back the vegetation north of Orbisonia across from the shopping center.

Above: A northward-facing view of the reconstructed tramway inside the Car Shop. – Gene Tucker photo Right: A view of the multi-gauge track on the north end of the Machine Shop. – Lawrence Biemiller photo

3 Volume 5, Issue 4

Maintenance on the Main

Each year, a continued focus of the railroad's track forces during the railroad's "off season" is the attention required on the track north of Orbisonia. During this reporting period, we assisted the railroad's full-time personnel in applying additional spiking to the guard rails on the Blacklog Creek bridge, the small bridge just north of that, and the Runk Road bridge. Tie work north of McMullin Summit, as well as improvements to the private crossing just north of the summit, also took place.

The March to Saltillo

The railroad's management has committed itself to long-range preparation of the right-of-way south of the Pogue bridge by clearing the ROW of trees and other vegetation. FEBT personnel assisted this process by breaking apart joints in the rail south of the Pogue Station, so that the individual sticks could be stacked off of the ROW. Removal of tree stumps and grading of the ROW will enable the track's reconstruction, once an ability to begin work south of the bridge comes into being.

On Tuesday, March 12th, a large number of our personnel worked side-by-side with Henry Long and Galen Covert, the railroads' full-time track personnel, in laying 132 feet of new track on the south side of the PA Route 475 crossing. The March to Saltillo is underway!

FEBT and EBT Foundation track crews work the northern face of Jordan Summit on March 12th. – Eric Knepp photo



Our Fun-Loving, Hard-Working Personnel

The members of our track crew believe that we have more fun than anyone at the railroad. We also believe that we manage to get a lot done in the process. Getting a lot done during this reporting period was made possible by the work of thirty-six personnel who assisted our efforts.

We warmly welcome new members to our work and our time together. During this reporting period, we were delighted to get to know these new members: Don Dusza, Montana Fay, Dave Fisher, Terry Wolfe, and Doug Davenport. Welcome!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

It's been said that people get a whole lot more done by working together than they would otherwise. In our work to give new birth to the East Broad Top Railroad, we are assisted by so many persons: Credit is due to those who set the priorities, the overall plan, and those who work alongside the FEBT's volunteers (the Foundation's Board of Directors, the railroad's management and staff); credit is due to those who show up for Work Weekends and Work Weeks (FEBT volunteers of all stripes, callings and talents); and credit is also due to those who support the work with their interest and their monetary donations. None of the great things that are happening at EBT would be a reality without all of these ingredients. Thank you, each one, no matter what your contributions might be. – *Gene Tucker*

NEW FEBT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

FEBT has recently created a new web-based Volunteer Information Questionnaire to help us connect volunteer's interests and skills with the projects and needs of FEBT. The questionnaire replaces the earlier Volunteer Skills Checklist form.

The new questionnaire is intended to simplify the input process, and identify volunteer interests as well as skills. We ask that new volunteers submit the questionnaire so that we can connect them with the appropriate volunteer coordinator, and to give us an inventory of the skills within our volunteer population. With the new simpler process in place, we encourage all members who would consider volunteering in any capacity (restoration, museum host, work-from-home organizational tasks, etc.) to fill out and submit the questionnaire. Current volunteers, including those who have previously completed a Volunteer Skill Checklist, can also submit their info, as it will give us a better view of their current interests and abilities.



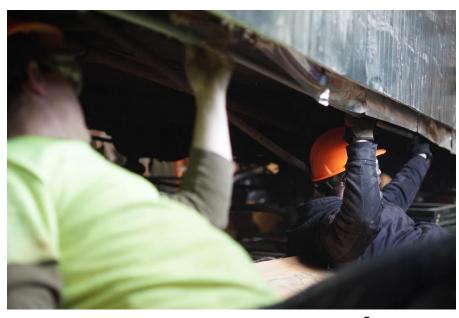
Friends of the East Broad Top - Volunteer Information Questionnaire

Interested in helping to preserve and restore the EBT? Use this form to help us get acquainted with you and understand what you would like to do and what skills you have. From office work to carpentry to track laying, we have ways that everyone can contribute. This includes on site activities at the railroad and tasks done remotely at home.

The FEBT Volunteer Information Questionnaire can be submitted on-line at http://bit.ly/febtvolunteer. There is also a PDF version of the questionnaire that can be downloaded from the volunteer page of the website (https://febt.org/volunteer/) and be filled out and emailed or mailed back. Contact Dave Bulman at volunteer@FEBT.org if you have any questions. – Dave Bulman

MARCH 2024 ROCKHILL RESTORATION WORK SESSION NOTES

The March Rockhill Restoration Work Session was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 2nd and 3rd. The weekend started cold and wet but ended warm and sunny. There were 28 volunteers on Saturday and 16 on Sunday. A number of projects saw work throughout the weekend.



Combine 14 saw additional new window sash fitting, the hanging of the restored baggage end platform door, and the running of electrical and audio conduit under the baggage section of the car.

Work progressed on two fronts with the Car Shop. The most visible work included continued work on the northeast doors, preparation of the northwest door opening, and the fitting of one of the northwest doors. Inside the Car Shop, while it was raining outside on Saturday morning, the track crew

FEBT members install new electrical conduit and wiring under Combine 14 during the March work session. – Al Gallo photo continued their restoration of the 2-foot gauge lumber transfer track, which enabled materials to be transferred from the Lumber Shed into the Car Shop. Once it stopped raining, the track crew continued their work to dismantle rail joints south of Pogue on recently cleared right-of-way (see article on Page 3).

The Glass Rattlers continued cleanup and restoration of windows, including those for the Car Shop's north doors.

Work on Boxcar 174 saw the cutting and fitting of new oak floorboards with approximately three quarters of the floor now installed.





Above: Tim Schindele removes the hinges to allow for replacement of the northwest Car shop door – Al Gallo photo. Left: Connie Wolfe and Bill Adams work to rejuvenate a window sash. – Al Gallo photo. Right: Tom Perman installs new oak floorboards in Boxcar 174. – Al Gallo photo.

The Rockhill Trolley Museum once again offered hot lunches each day in their warm pavilion to FEBT volunteers for a donation. Many enjoyed the meals and the opportunity to mingle with both FEBT and RTM volunteers.

If you'd like to help with these and other projects to preserve and restore the EBT, please come and join us! - Eric Knepp

MARCH FEBT MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Elsewhere in this issue you'll see Doug Linebaugh's report of the additional work done on clearing track/making a walking tour trail along the wye in Robertsdale. (See Page 11)

The walking tour is one of the more popular things we do at the museum. Adding this (and other) trails will keep on giving you reasons to come back to Robertsdale again and again. Also, by adding some shorter tours, we hope to make it easier for those who have not really allocated enough time to "do it right." We hope these short tours give us a "do it right, short version" option. "These?" Yes, we have another in mind. I'll let you know when it's ready.

Here's the part where I encourage you to visit Robertsdale. Note that I just wrote Robertsdale, not simply the FEBT Museum in Robertsdale. I'm not shy, our museum is great! But there's another. The Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum is also well worth your time to visit. Our museums make an effort to not compete, but complement each other. That means you really do want to visit both. (See article on Page 9 for more on the Coal Miners Msuem)

If all you have time for is a quick visit before or after your train ride – come on up, we'd love to see you. But understand that you are going to head home thinking that you didn't really get all you could have from your visit. You need to allocate time for Robertsdale? What's there that you'll want to do? A walking tour of the mines 1, 3, 5 mining area. A short walking tour of the wye/freight house site. A rail bike tour that goes nearly to Woodvale. Time to review all the displays in the museum. They really are good, you really will learn things you did not know, see photos you have not seen, and hear interviews with those who actually worked on the EBT in the "Common Carrier" days (prior to the 1956 shut down). On days the library is open (see the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter), members can go upstairs and read from the extensive library. Want to read the books Andy Van Scyoc referenced in his Spring 2024 TT article but don't want to pay for them? How about reading Rainey & Kyper? All, and much more are available to members for free, in the library. Learn more about the FEBT Library at https://febt.org/library/. Can't get your own copy of one of the books on

the EBT? The odds are good that we've got it for sale at the gift shop. Don't have a PC or not comfortable using one to access the Archives? Use the dedicated Archives PC and ask a host to help you learn how to search. Twice this year Julie Rockwell will bring selected items from the Archives up for display (again, see the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter.) And don't forget to go visit the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum. Exhausted and need a lunch break? It's available a short drive away in Broad Top City or Three Springs. Robertsdale, who'd've thought!

Hosting at the museum is great fun. Don't take my word for it, I'd be happy to put you in touch with those who have done it. It's not too late for you to join in for this year! Host training is scheduled for Friday April 19 and Saturday the 20th. Why not contact me (Pete, email <u>febt@aol.com</u>) and come join in the fun?

I've delayed writing this (sorry Doug) so that I could mention our first day open day of this year, 3/23. It was predicted to be (and was) cold, rainy, and windy. Not an inviting day at all. I thought sure we'd have few or no visitors and therefore have time to dust, clean windows and do all the housekeeping chores that didn't get done because Jane and I took a long vacation. I could not have been more wrong. Twenty-two visitors came to the museum. Hans (one of our hosts) donned full Southwestern gale gear and took at least two groups on walking tours!





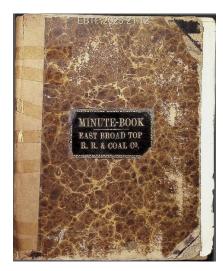
Chuck Dallos came by with 2 EBT train crew lanterns and showed the various systems used to adjust the wicks – one used a truly "Rube Goldburg" system. Interesting to see how designers struggled to figure out how to adjust a wick that was enclosed in a glass globe. TT editor Jane points out that more about lanterns can be found in TT 25-3 and 28-1.

We also got out the Coles stamp. Most think these were used to mark correspondence (letters), but Chuck says that railroads had trouble with people stealing tickets when the ticket agent turned their back, so railroads (and probably the EBT) did not honor a ticket unless it had been validated by having a stamp on it. Such an interesting place. The museum is closed in April but opens for the season on May 4. Come then and bring your ticket and ask us to validate it for you. It will not make it work better, but does make it that much more of a keepsake. – *Pete Clarke*

Above: FEBT Museum host Hans Plugge auditions for Deadliest Catch during the rains on March 23rd, before giving a walking tour of the Rockhill Coal Co. mines. – Jane Clarke photo Left: One of Chuck Dallos's lanterns. This one has had the globe replaced, but the bulk of the lantern is original. – Jane Clarke photo

EBT MINUTE BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME

The East Broad Top Railroad & Coal Co. was among the earliest railroads in Pennsylvania to deploy a new but largelyunproven technology: narrow gauge. This meant that its Board of Directors had to make decisions not only about gauge, but also about the appropriate designs for locomotives and cars, the optimum curves and grades, manageable finances and debts, and much more. Now you can follow these developments in the original official sources.



The East Broad Top Archives and Special Collections is proud to feature the *EBT Board of Directors' and Stockholders' Minutes Volumes No. 1, (1871-1882), No. 2, (1882-1893), and No. 3 (1893-1908), now available for public access on the digital catalog.* The complete meeting minutes have never before been available to EBT researchers.

As a special aid for readers, the volumes include not only the images of the original minutes but also special indexes created by EBT scholar Vagel Keller. These enable fast access to topics of wide interest, and are available as a complimentary PDF download!

The EBTRR Archives and Special Collections are a joint undertaking of the EBT Foundation and the Friends of the East Broad Top. This work is supported by the FEBT Annual Campaign. The Archives Team thanks you for your support! – *Lee Rainey*

ARCHIVES CONTINUES TO UNPACK MAPS AND DRAWINGS IN THE VAULTS

During the March FEBT work session, FEBT volunteer Lawrence Biemiller and photographer Matthew Malkiewicz assisted EBT Archives Technician Sammy Bellin in removing maps, drawings, and blueprint reproductions stored in the upper reaches of the Orbisonia Passenger Station's secondfloor Chief Engineer's vault. Lawrence, Sammy, and the EBT Foundation's General Manager Brad Esposito took turns climbing up a ladder to retrieve a treasure trove of materials. Matthew assiduously photo-documented the process, coming in a day early to take multiple "before" shots, and then capturing the work session as documents were brought down from the top shelves of the 12' high vault. By the end, five 90-quart bins were filled. More items are still waiting to be removed.



Upper lofts of the Chief Engineer's Office vault filled with maps and drawings. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo

The maps and blueprints in question originated from the Rockhill Iron and Coal Company offices in Robertsdale. Some of the documents found are tied up in newspapers from 1931 and seem not to have been unwrapped since. Also found were several lightweight metal tubes filled with maps, and loose maps that have tags identifying their contents, such as



Archives Technician Sammy Bellin reviews the technical information for a pantograph – in French! – Lawrence Biemiller photo

"No. 9 Mine." EBT lore has it that one rainy day in the 1990s, all these materials were loaded into a pickup truck and moved into this vault, deep in the heart of the station. Many of these drawings showcase the underground workings of the RI&CCo. mines. A particularly interesting find was a technical instructional chart in French for a scaling device, called a pantograph, that was useful to the engineers drawing their plethora of maps. Many thanks go out to James Roslund, the Foundation's Director of Engineering, for explaining several of the items, including the pantograph. The condition of the materials varies from good to poor. Moldy or questionably dirty materials were contained and moved to a more secure location in the station's downstairs vault.

To date, an estimated 4,800 maps and drawings have been inventoried and preserved since the inception of the Archives in April 2021. Just shy of 400 of those maps and drawings have been scanned, cataloged, and made available on the Archives Digital Catalog (https://ebtarchives.catalogaccess.com/). The Foundation was awarded a National Railway Historical Society Heritage Grant in May 2022 with funding to purchase a wide format scanner, which has been the scanning equipment workhorse capable of scanning a variety of archival materials for the EBTRR Architectural and Engineering Maps and Drawings Project. Former Juniata College interns Brian Standfest and Connor Green supported the project, and a new intern from the college will continue project work this summer. EBT Scholars Lee Rainey, Ron Pierson, Ric Case, Vagel Keller, and Rich Wickett, and the EBTF/FEBT restoration teams have all benefited from these

materials, which have given EBT scholarship new perspectives and numerous new details. - Sammy Bellin

MINERS MUSEUM PREPARES FOR 2024 SEASON

With the 2024 travel season closing in, the board of directors of the nonprofit Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society gathered recently in the Reality Theatre, Robertsdale, to finalize plans for the spring, summer and fall schedule. The Coal Miners Museum will open officially for the season on Saturday, May 4.

Some changes have been made to the museum exhibits while plans also call for the museum's audio/visual system to be operational this year.

Additional improvements are scheduled for outside the museum, with the work expected be completed in time for the museum's seasonal opening,10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 4. The museum will be open each Saturday thereafter until Oct. 26. Announcements will be made later about several special events planned for this summer and fall.

With hopes of increasing museum attendance, the board of directors announced that group tours are welcomed most days of the year, other than holidays. Groups of 25 or more are welcome to tour the museum. Contact the museum at 814-907-1788 for details.

As of this writing, society researchers Denny Fields and Carolyn Carroll are preparing for improvements at the research library located on the top floor of the museum. Stay tuned for additional details.

The society members encourage families to submit information and photos about loved ones who worked in the Broad Top area coal mines and at the Somerset County, Pa. mines (GM&W Coal Co. operations). The information will be added to a compilation of coal miners of the Broad Top which is on display in the museum's downstairs exhibit area.

Also, families wishing to add a miner's name to the plaques on display in the museum can do so by stopping by the museum or dialing 814-907-1788. The cost for placing names on the Miners Memorial Plaques is \$100 per miner. The society will also be taking part in the annual Robertsdale Community & Heritage Days which dates have been changed to the weekend of August 17-18. The planning for the event is in progress, with information to be announced at a later date.

The society members listened to an update about FEBT activities taking place at the nearby FEBT Museum Complex.

According to Rick Rourke, a volunteer with both the FEBT and the Coal Miners Museum, EBT right-of-way is being cleared at the Robertsdale wye north to the EBT railroad bridge situated east of the town. Rourke also reported that the FEBT will be operating their new railbikes this season on excursion rides from Robertsdale to Wood and return. The FEBT will be announcing additional activities in the coming months. The Coal Miners Museum and the FEBT continue to be involved in cooperative activities including the cosponsoring a new advertisement appearing in the 2024 Huntingdon County Visitors Guide.

In hopes of connecting the two museums via a walking tour route, the Coal Miners Museum is studying options for restoring a foot bridge which spans Trough Creek. It was pointed out that the bridge connection would provide visitors with easy access to the Coal Miners Museum, FEBT Museum Complex, the Ruth George Playground, the EBT



Scarlett Wirt, archives team volunteer with the EBT Archives and Special Collections Disaster Response Planning and Environmental Monitoring Project, far right, makes a presentation about the project at a recent meeting of the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society board of directors at Robertsdale. – Ron Morgan photo

right-of-way and what remains of the Rockhill Coal Co. mining sites numbers 1 and 5 (Robertsdale Slope Mine) with a host while the museums are open to the public.

The public is reminded that the new "From Coal to Glory: The History of the Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain Railroad" book can be purchased at the Coal Miners Museum and numerous other locations in Huntingdon and Bedford counties. The cost of the book (including shipping and handling) is only \$23. Mail checks to:

Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum Box 231 Robertsdale, PA 16674

Please make checks payable to the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society. A limited supply of the H&BT history, Volumes 1 and 2, can also be purchased. Make checks payable to Judy Baughman (same price) and mail to:

Judy Baughman Box 215 Dudley, PA 16634.

The society board members also remind the public that memberships in the society are available. The annual dues are: seniors and veterans, \$15; individuals, \$20; and families, \$30. Annual membership in the society permits unlimited free admission to the museum. Mail checks with information to the Coal Miners Museum.

In other agenda matters the board of directors:

--agreed to take part in the ongoing EBT Archives and Special Collections Project and will attend workshops set for 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Monday April 22, at the Bricktown Model Railroaders Museum in Mount Union and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday, May 6, at the Three Springs Volunteer Fire Co. firehall in Three Springs.

--reported that board member Bill Hall will erect fencing around a coal cutter situated in front of the Reality Theatre. --continue to seek donations to assist the historical society with numerous activities and operational costs. It was noted that the society had paid excessive costs for electricity to heat the theatre/museum and wants to be prepared for the winter of 2024-25. – *Ron Morgan*

ROBERTSDALE ROW CLEARING CONTINUES

On 3/16, Doug Linebaugh led a crew of Rick Rourke, Steve Jackson, Tom Hesketh, and Frank Dziama on a Robertsdale workday. Here's his report.

Basically, the most immediate goals have been accomplished - get a clear path along the wye and expose the overgrown rails under the turf in the lawn. The five of us were all busy, and I didn't see a whole lot of what else was going on, but from what I did, here's a synopsis...

Steve and Rick mainly uncovered a lot of the rails in the lawn. They used Steve's gator to take the sod over to fill some spot behind the hopper cars.



Left: Before and after pictures of the south leg of the Robertsdale wye. Below: The crew found the rails of the main line alongside ethe RI&C office building. – Doug Linebaugh photos

In the woods, the March winds had set us back some by dropping more wood on the ground in our way.

Frank and Tom spent much of their time on the freight shed track and got that open, bringing out a ton of brush. I dug out some rail behind the PO, but then concentrated on cleaning out the wye leg. It's not pretty, but the brush stumps are out and a path is visible aside the track. Frank took out the last row of pines that were blocking the path. The path varies in clear width, mostly from 3 to 5 feet, but narrows in a couple of places where the ground drops off to the side. As on the mine tours, guests will need to use some caution, but there are no branches in your face and the walk is fairly level, and it only takes a few minutes to complete the triangular round trip.

I want to remind all readers that this is private property. Unless you are part of a museum-sponsored walking tour, being on the wye or on the mine tour path without permission is trespassing.





The wye took up all of our time again, and so any progress toward the bridge will have to wait for another time.

It's also great that it's getting hard now to find a scrap of litter in the wye after more bags of it were collected. I'd love to see a couple signs posted, to the effect of "Thank you for never littering the East Broad Top Railroad / Robertsdale/Wood National Historic site."

Ron Morgan was said to have stopped by and taken some photographs. Tom graciously drove the three of us over a most scenic and interesting mountain route to Coaldale for lunch, and along the way we enjoyed Rick's expert color commentary.

In short, a tiring but highly satisfying, yea, enjoyable, day in and around Robertsdale.

Thanks again for all the fine teamwork and progress on behalf of the EBT, the FEBT, our museum guests, the community in general, and EBTRR fans everywhere! – *Doug Linebaugh*

Left: Progress on the tail end of the wye. Below: One found rail near the current Robertsdale Post Office.

Bottom: A view facing north on the main line. A task for a future work session. – Doug Linebaugh photos



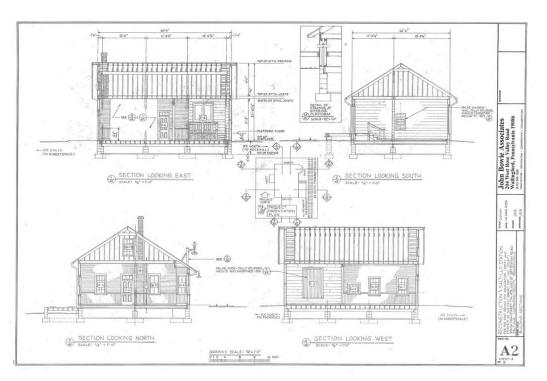


FEBT 2024 CAMPAIGN REACHES MILESTONES IN MARCH

March was an exciting month for the FEBT Campaign. We have now exceeded our initial 2024 goal of \$220,000 with over \$227,000 raised since October 1, 2023. This means that we now have the funds to support the 2024 Campaign projects - Saltillo Station reconstruction, purchase of the new tender tank for No. 15, fully funding the 2024 Archives effort, the start of planning to rebuild the Robertsdale Enginehouse, and supporting the March to Saltillo with \$40,000 of additional track materials.

The Saltillo Station

Reconstruction made exciting progress in March with the



completion of the final construction drawings by architect and FEBT member John Bowie. This will allow the project to move forward with bidding and contractor selection.



The March to Saltillo reached a significant milestone on March 12th, with the commencement of track restoration south of Route 475, enabled by your support of the FEBT Campaign. Also during March, an additional 1005 ties, 3000 tie plates, 4800 spikes, and 404 tons of ballast were delivered to the EBTF, all funded by the 2024 and 2023 Campaigns. With these deliveries, we have sufficient materials for the FEBT and EBTF track crews to reach Jordan Summit.

Future progress will require significantly more materials. The ties, spikes, plates, and ballast needed to go from Jordan Summit to Pogue will cost more than \$100,000. To support this need, 2024 Campaign donations beyond the initial \$220,000 goal will be targeted toward the purchase of additional track materials. You can accelerate the March to Saltillo with your continued support of the 2024 Campaign.

The 2024 Annual Campaign runs until Sept. 30, 2024. You may donate online (credit card and Paypal accepted) at the FEBT Company Store, <u>https://store.febt.org/donate</u>. If you prefer to send a check or money order payable to FEBT, address it to:

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

FEBT is a designated 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible in the U.S. – *Karen and Dave Bulman*

MARCH FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank you for your continued support of the 2024 Campaign. March contributions totaled \$13,646 in 91 donations. This brings the 2024 Campaign total to \$227,648, or 103.5% of our goal! FEBT appreciates your help to support its goals of restoring, preserving, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad.

2024 Campaign Goal: \$220,000 **February Donations:** \$13,646.00 **Campaign Total:** \$227,648.00 - 103.5%

March donors*:

•				
	John Acken	Walter Albers	James Armstrong	Mark Baker
	Bryan Becker	James Benko	Tim Bristow	Casper Bocklage
	Alexander Bowser	James Braum	Dave & Karen Bulman	Richard L. Burkholder
	David H. Capp	Laurence Carbonetti	Thomas Carlson	Keith Clouse
	Kevin Cogan	William Collins	Wade L. Colyer	Frank Couch
	Don Coulter	Robert Courneya	Bruce Courter	David M. McMahon
	Frank R. Dziama	Steve Elliott	Lance Erickson	Caleb Faia
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	John Sheets	Robert D. Shotsberger	Marcia Siekkinen	J. Craig Thorpe
	Mike Torreson	William R. Urban	Andrew H. Van Scyoc	Vern Van Voorst
	Deborah Vaughn	James Vliet	Rand L. Warner	David S. Whitaker
	Gerrard M. Wilson	Jeffrey Winter	Brian Wolfe	Terrill L. Woolsey

* - All donors listed represent donations received between February 22, 2024 and March 21, 2024. Donations received after March 21 will be reported in the May 2024 issue due to press time constraints.

Thank you for your generous support! - Karen Bulman and Dave Bulman

FEBT'S YOUTH PROGRAM BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE

Plans for this year's FEBT's Youth Program are well underway. To date, we've drafted a registration/permission form, which is being reviewed. And, we've identified some FEBT members who will assist in leading the program.

Saturday, June 15th is the date for our first offering. For our first event, we expect to be able to offer a tour of the roundhouse and shops, a train ride, lunch for all involved, and a hands-on project (tie installation in the Rockhill yard is our projected activity for June).

Young persons ages 13 through 17 will be eligible to participate. There is no cost to take part, but each person must be an FEBT member (this is necessary for insurance purposes). For the 2024 season, we've planned to start with a less ambitious program, limiting participants to twelve youth.

We're inviting parents, guardians and grandparents to accompany their younger family members for the day. We expect to make registration/permission forms available (once they have been reviewed and approved) sometime in May. We are planning to ask that registration forms be returned by the beginning of June. Look for more details in May's newsletter. – *Gene Tucker*

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

The following members volunteered in February in Rockhill Furnace, Robertsdale, and/or with the track crew. Thanks to all FEBT volunteers for their dedicated efforts to preserve, restore, and interpret the EBT.

Bill Adams	Victor Booth	Roy Burnham	Kevin Cogan
Craig Confair	Jill Confair	Kevin Conklin	Chris Connacher
Alex Cook	Phil Coyle	Van Cresswell	Doug Davenport
Don Dusza	Frank Dziama	Dave Ebright	Montana Fay
Dave Fisher	Jack Fornadley	Larry Fuchs	Al Gallo
Bobby Goldby	Dave Hart	Tom Hesketh	Brian Hoffman
Jim Hughes	Steve Jackson	Dave Johnson	Todd Johnson
Tom Jordan	Daniel Kelly	Eric Knepp	Daniel Lane
Doug Linebaugh	Mathew Malkiewicz	Matt Mundis	Joel Myers
Sam Painter	Tom Perman	John Quinn	Mark Reese
Bill Reynolds	Ryan Rimshaw	Rick Rourke	Justin Santichen
Tim Schindele	Gene Tucker	Lamar Tyson	Andy Van Scyoc
Mike Wahler	John Widmeyer	Norm Wilcox	Connie Wolfe

Charlie Wootton

WANTS AND NEEDS

We can always use more volunteers at our Rockhill work sessions, and for other FEBT activities. One particular area we really could use more help with is window restoration in Rockhill. Bill Adams leads this important effort and could use up to 5 volunteers at each work session. Too often, Bill has been the only one signed up and working this project. This work is not too physically demanding, and only requires the ability to scrape and paint. Please consider helping with this project. Contact Charlie Wootton, the Rockhill volunteer coordinator, at <u>rhrestoration@febt.org</u> to get on the sign-up distribution, or contact me at <u>dbulman115@gmail.com</u> if you have other questions. *– Dave Bulman*

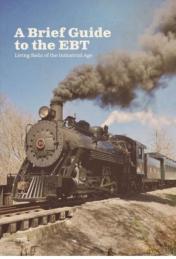
2024 FEBT SPRING WALK CANCELLED

The Spring Walk for 2024, scheduled for Saturday, April 6^{th} , has been cancelled. Limited interest in the event is the primary reason for this. We hope to have the event up and running again for 2025. Stay tuned to this newsletter for more information. – *Doug Davenport*

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE The Friends of the East Broad Top membership is up to 2154

Terry Wolfe

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH



A Brief Guide to the EBT

Living Relic of the Industrial Age

Edited by Lawrence Biemiller, James H. Tuten, and Ryan Kough

This 115 page, 6x9 inch, softbound booklet is intended as a introduction to the EBT but the information, pictures and high quality layout make this booklet something every fan of the EBT should have!

"Visiting the East Broad Top Railroad? This guide explains everything from the route you'll ride and the whistle signals you'll hear to the history of this unique railroad, a living relic of the American Industrial Age.

A Brief Guide to the EBT is the result of a remarkable collaboration among Juniata College students and faculty members, the EBT Foundation, the Friends of the East Broad Top, and the East Broad Top Archives and Special Collections."

\$23.95 Member Discount Applies Shipping \$7.50

Order on-line through the FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org, using your account or create an account. PayPal, major credit cards, and personal checks payable to FEBT Company Store are accepted. *Money orders cannot be accepted and will be returned to sender. Mail orders, regardless of payment method, are no longer accepted.*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Date		Host	Event		
April 6, 7		FEBT	Rockhill Work Session		
April 19, 20		FEBT	FEBT Museum Host Training		
May 11, 12		EBT	EBT Goes to War!		
May 18, 19		FEBT	Rockhill Work Session		
May 20-24		FEBT	Rockhill Spring Work Week		
June 8		RTM	Johnstown Trolley Day		
June 15, 16		FEBT	Rockhill Work Session		
June 15		FEBT	Youth Work Session		
July 6, 7		FEBT	Rockhill Work Session	Rockhill Work Session	
July 21		RTM	National Ice Cream Da	National Ice Cream Day	
July 27, 28		FEBT	Rockhill Work Session		
August 3		RTM	York Railways 163 Day		
-		FEBT	Rockhill Work Session		
August 17, 18 BTACME		BTACMHS	Robertsdale Community Days		
September 12, 13, 14, 15		EBT	Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festiva		
September 14, 15		FEBT	Rockhill Work Session		
September 14		FEBT	Youth Work Session		
September 16-20		FEBT	Rockhill Fall Work Week		
October 4, 5, 6		FEBT	FEBT Fall Reunion		
October 5		RTM	Fall Spectacular		
October 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27		EBT	PEANUTS Great Pum	pkin Patch Express	
October 26, 27		FEBT	Rockhill Work Session		
Hosts: F	EBT	Friends of the East Broa	ad Top	www.febt.org	
	BT	East Broad Top Railroa		www.eastbroadtop.com	
R	ЗТМ	Rockhill Trolley Museu		www.rockhilltrolley.org	
В	TACMHS	MHS Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Soc		broadtopminersmuseum.com	

UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The next Rockhill volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 6th and 7th. 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 <u>rhrestoration@febt.org</u>.

If you have questions about volunteering, or have suggestions for our volunteer recruiting efforts, please email me at $\underline{dbulman115@gmail.com}$. – Dave Bulman

FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Training for museum hosts is scheduled for Friday April 19 and Saturday April 20. Contact Pete (<u>febt@aol.com</u>) to join the group of hosts.

Standard tourist season hours will begin on Saturday, May 4th. Operating hours will be Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Archives Days: June 8, August 10

Library Days: May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 4, October 19

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 2,100 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 <u>febt.org/</u> for more information.



FEBT and EBT Foundation track crews pose on March 12th, having installed 132' of track south of the Maddensville Pike grade crossing they are standing at. – 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 <u>Newsletter@febt.org</u>. Previous issues of the FEBT Newsletter may be found at <u>febt.org/newsletter</u>. 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.