



A work train backs southbound over the McCoy Road grade crossing on November 7, 2024. – Dave Johnson photo

IN THIS ISSUE:

EBT Archives: Educational Outreach Increases in 2024	3
A Quick Look Back at the FEBT Reunion	5
Young Easties Teens Join in Working Track	7
Robertsdale's Busy November Downtime	8
October 2024 Rockhill Restoration Work Session Notes	9
Layin' Track, Building a Bridge	11
November Campaign Accomplishments	13
November Fundraising Update	14
Company Store Item of the Month	16
Wants and Needs	17
November Volunteers	17
New Advisory Committee Formed	17
Upcoming Events	19
Upcoming Rockhill Furnace Volunteer Sessions	19
Upcoming Robertsdale Volunteer Sessions	19
FEBT Museum Schedule	19
From the <i>Timber Transfer</i> Editor's Desk	20



The combined forces of the EBT Foundation track crew, the FEBT track crew, and FEBT's Young Easties work at installing track between the McCoy Road and Pogue Road (PA 994) grade crossings on October 26, 2024. This work is part of the March to Saltillo. – Chris McCann photo

EBT ARCHIVES: EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH INCREASES IN 2024

The East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections actively participated in the busy 2024 tourist excursion season with new educational outreach events and specialized visits, enriching community connections with both railroad visitors and other museum and archives professionals and volunteers.

Archivist Julie Fether Rockwell and Archives Technician Sammy Bellin conducted four Archives Days and seven Vault Tours at the Orbisonia Passenger Station, showcasing unique archival materials (many never before on display) in the baggage room and giving paid tours of the operations upstairs in the Chief Engineer's Office. The tours included a rare-to-the-public peek inside the three brick vaults filled with EBT corporate records and more. Forty-five tour visitors, including FEBT members during the Annual Reunion, learned how the Archives manages daily operations to catalog, digitize, process, and make available the Foundation's and Friends' historic collections for preservation, restoration, and interpretation, and for public access through the Digital Catalog: <https://ebtfoundation.org/archives/>.

The FEBT Robertsdale Museum held two Archives Days that attracted over 30 visitors to see a variety of maps, drawings, and artifacts highlighting Rockhill Iron and Coal Company history. The museum also presented an exhibit, "From the Vaults to the Page," featuring the new generation of research and scholarship using archival materials highlighted in FEBT's *Timber Transfer* with articles written by EBT historians Dr. Lee Rainey, Dr. Ron Pearson, Dr. Vagel Keller, and Ric Case.

The Archives welcomed over 500 attendees from across the country representing various national railroad conventions to the EBT with baggage room archives displays and impromptu tours of the vaults during their EBT excursion events. Rockwell and Bellin were on deck to talk to attendees from the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society,

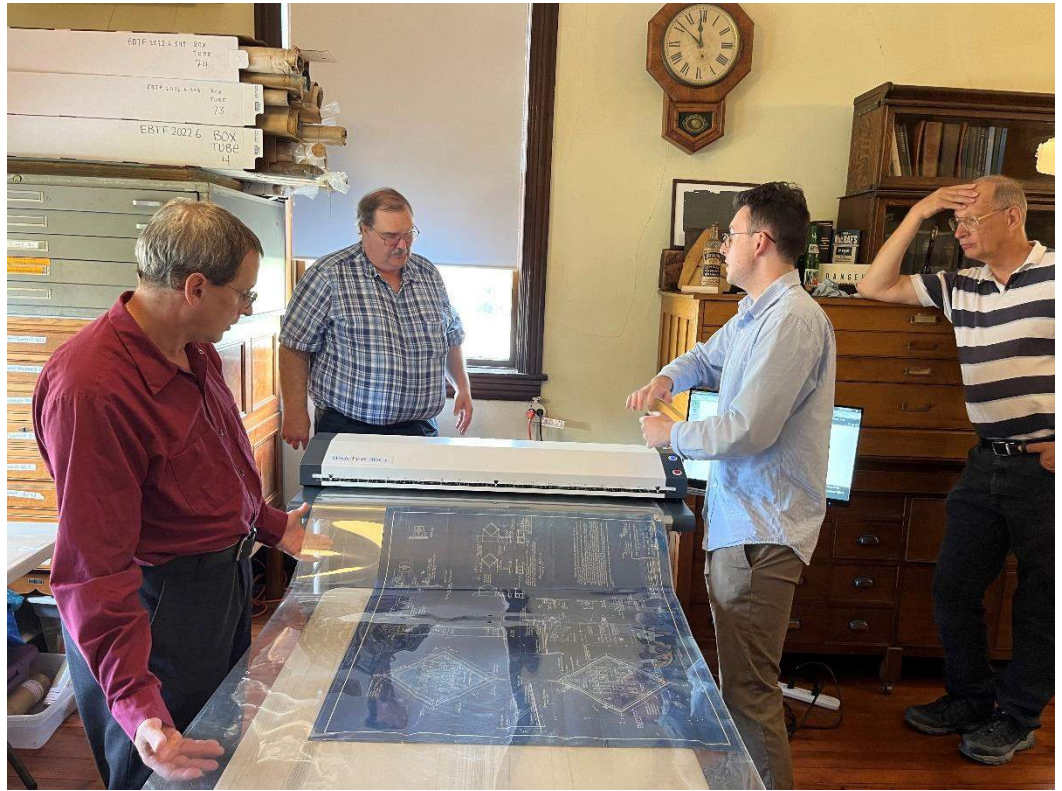


Railroad & Locomotive Historical Society, National Railway Historical Society, and the National Narrow Gauge Convention. And, the Archives participated in local community events with archive displays to celebrate the Three Springs Carnival and the Orbisonia-Rockhill Furnace Homecoming.

Above: Sammy Bellin gives a tour of the Archives to NRHS Harrisburg Chapter President Mark Eyer and other attendees during the NRHS National Convention visit to the EBT. – Julie Fether Rockwell photo

Left: EBT Archives display at the Three Springs Carnival during Memorial Day weekend with summer intern Andi Bradsher and Archives Technician Sammy Bellin. – Julie Fether Rockwell photo

Rockwell and Bellin also gave in-person and remote consultations to other museum and archive volunteers and professionals, for example, speaking to eight Canadian Transit Heritage Foundation members about using the Archives' collections management system PastPerfect™ Web Edition. Kevin Verrato, president of the Steel City Chapter, Railroad & Locomotive Historical Society, spent time learning about standard operational archival practices onsite. Three members of the NRHS Harrisburg Chapter visited onsite to learn about the Archives' scanning operations using the WideTEK 36" wide format scanner, purchased with an NRHS Heritage Grant in 2022. Rockwell and Bellin also presented on the opening night of the NRHS National Convention in Harrisburg to talk about the scanner and its use for the ongoing EBT Architectural and Engineering Maps and Drawings project.



PDO Project Manager James Nowotarski and volunteer/docents Brad Anderson and Dan Rapak from the NRHS Harrisburg Chapter watch Sammy Bellin demonstrate using the WideTEK wide format scanner and working with the scanned image in the software program. – Julie Rockwell photos

Lastly, in mid-October, 18 Penn State Altoona Rail Transportation Engineering students, faculty, and staff visited the EBT. In addition to their shop complex tour, and train and trolley rides, the group toured the vaults: <https://www.psu.edu/news/altoona/story/altoona-rail-transportation-engineering-students-visit-railroad-trolley-museum>.

Educational outreach and promoting the Archives' work is essential to its mission to preserve, protect, and provide access to the EBT's historic records. The more visitors are exposed to the unique and rare collections, either online or in person, and the archives and museum community recognizes the Archives' high standard of operational practices, the more the EBT Archives will continue as an exemplary railroad archives program that the Foundation and the Friends are proud to support. – Julie Fether Rockwell



A QUICK LOOK BACK AT THE FEBT REUNION

Hello everyone. I know this is likely later than many expected but I promise it is for good reason, as you will find out later in this article. That's right, I am making you read!

Just about two months ago we celebrated everything that the Friends of the East Broad Top and the EBT Foundation had accomplished since the 2023 reunion. With this being my first reunion in charge (and my second reunion ever), needless to say I was a little nervous going into the October 4 weekend. Between hoping for good weather, making sure things went to plan, having back-up plans in case they didn't, and even more, it was certainly a lot to grasp. I had a wonderful team to help me through it.

First, I'd like to recognize the previous reunion coordinator, Andy Van Scyoc, whose guidance and experience were certainly invaluable in the months leading up to and during the 2024 reunion.

I'd also like to thank all of the volunteers who assisted throughout the whole weekend. From registration to pizza procurement to helping monitor the Rockhill Furnace Yard to giving walking and railbike tours in Robertsdale, your efforts made this year's reunion go as smoothly as it did.



Reunion registrants enjoy an extended walking tour of the mines at the Robertsdale Museum on the Friday of Reunion. – Al Gallo photo

Lastly, I'd like to thank the EBT Foundation staff for all their efforts in making this year's event such a success. From setting up Colgate Grove to maintaining and operating the trains and running the station and gift shop, their efforts should be truly commended.



Moving on to the reunion itself, I think it is at least fair to say that the reunion was a success, with 210 total registrants this year (which I am told is the most of the 21st century, if not of all time). Attendees were able to enjoy many panel sessions on a

Henry Long, Gene Tucker, and Andy Van Sycoc present a panel on the March to Saltillo and answer many questions on track construction. – Al Gallo photo

variety of topics, including track work, the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad, several EBT updates, and the 2025 campaign. Thank you to all of the presenters who contributed to this year's presentations, and look for the panel style to return for future reunions! (As an aside, full credit to the EBT Foundation's Jonathan Smith for the panel idea.)

Attendees were also able to partake in a Dinner Train specifically for FEBT Reunion registrants! The dinner held was at Colgate Grove, and was catered by Harshbarger's Sub and Malt of McVeytown. A fun time for all! (That's another idea I can't take credit for. Full credit needs to go to the EBT Foundation's Andrew Greene for the dinner train idea.)



The evening dinner train, catered by Harshbarger's Sub and Malt, to Colgate Grove and Jordan Summit was a sure highlight of the reunion weekend. – Al Gallo photo

A sure highlight however was the surprise journey to Jordan Summit that kicked off the dinner train. The first revenue passenger train to Jordan Summit in over 68 years! A monumental moment that was a testament to all the hard work done by Gene's Army of FEBT Volunteer Track Crew and the full-time EBT Foundation Track Crew of Henry Long and Galen Covert.

Now there are a couple of common questions from the reunion weekend. The first being "Were sessions recorded?" and the answer to that is yes. All sessions from the reunion were recorded, and you can look for them to be released on the Friends of the East Broad Top's social media channels in the months leading up to the 2025 Reunion. (In fact the 2025 Campaign presentation is already live on the Friends of the East Broad Top YouTube and Facebook pages, check it out!)

A huge thank you to Jacob Bury, Tyler Gardner, and Garrett Zimmerman, who were my production assistants in both recording the sessions as well as setting up and tearing down the sound system at the Robertsdale Fire Hall and Rockhill Elementary School sites.

The second main question coming out of Reunion is "What's next?" Well, the first part of that answer is looking forward



to the 2025 FEBT Reunion on October 3, 4, and 5, and I hope to see even more of you there. Beyond that, we have both the 45th and 50th anniversaries of the FEBT to look forward to in the coming years and you can be sure the reunion is going to play a big part in those celebrations. And... though I know it will be tricky to top the 2024 Reunion, I will certainly give it a try! – Al Gallo

Looking ahead not only to some old destinations, but to the 2025 reunion on October 3, 4, and 5, 2025 - Al Gallo Photo

YOUNG EASTIES TEENS JOIN IN WORKING TRACK

FEBT's new Young Easties program, which is designed for teens ages 13 through 18, wrapped up a successful first season during the October Work Weekend on Saturday, October 26th. Fifteen teens worked under the direction of three FEBT members; Mr. Dave Hart, Mr. Tim Schindele, and yours truly (each of whom possesses the required background clearances that are required to work with youth). In addition, three of the teens' parents and grandparents were on hand, as well as a separate work crew of 11 adults, all of whom formed a gauging and spiking gang in the newly-assembled track just north of the McCoy Road grade crossing. This large group of 32 individuals was led by Mr. Henry Long, the railroad's Track Foreman.



Due to the large number of workers, the best approach seemed to be to divide the teens into two teams, each one setting spikes in the east rail (also known as the line rail) of the track. Following along with FEBT's new battery-powered spiking gun, some of the teens got to run the spikes in, coached by Dave Hart. The adult team worked at gauging and spiking up the west rail (guard rail), following behind the teens.

Left; The Young Easties set spikes in the main line on October 26. – Tim Schindele photo

Below: EBT Foundation Chairman Henry Posner III learns the level of enthusiasm the Young Easties have firsthand. – Wayne Cass photo

By mid-afternoon, it became apparent that some of the teens were showing good energy in setting spikes, so three spike mauls were brought out from the toolbox, and anyone who wanted to try driving spikes the hard way was invited to relive the days when all the spikes were driven by hand. Much to the delight of the onlookers, both teens and adults, the ensuing spiking party proved to be lots of fun. Mr. Hart joined in, demonstrating his spiking technique with the maul, as did Mr. Long.

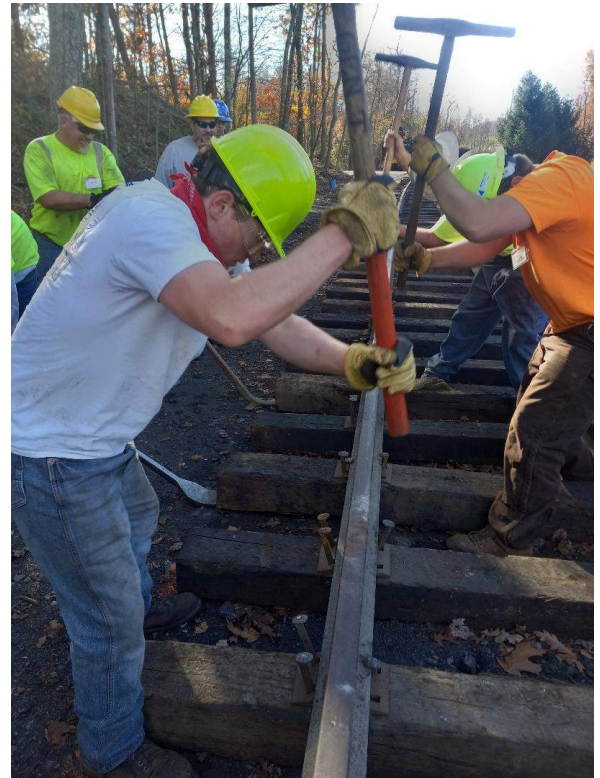
Mr. Henry Posner III, Chairman of the Board of the EBT Foundation, paid a visit to the work site during the morning. He had a good chat with the teens. Ms. Robin Bernstein, a fundraiser with the Foundation, accompanied him as well.



Many of the participants seemed enthused about the Young Easties program. Comments like, “I can’t wait to come back” were heard as we closed out the day’s activities. We’re already planning for next season’s offerings, which will expand the nature of the work we’re doing. Stay tuned for an announcement of 2025 dates in the near future.

We had a grand time, and we managed to get a lot done in the process. Thanks to each young person who took part. Thanks to their parents, grandparents and family members who supported their ability to come. Thanks to those who worked with the teens, and to those who formed the adult spiking gang. Thanks also to Henry Long, who devoted his Saturday to leading and guiding the work. – *Gene Tucker*

The Young Easties ready their spike mauls during the third and final youth session of 2024. – Gene Tucker photo



MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

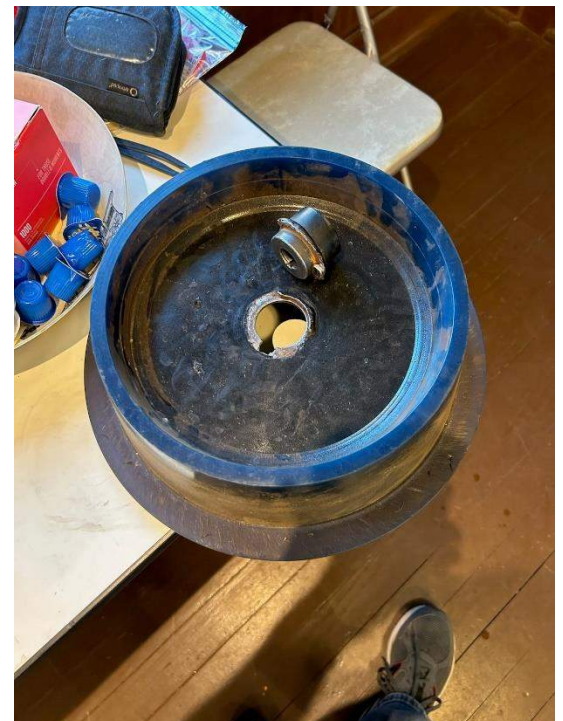
The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
2205

ROBERTSDALE’S BUSY NOVEMBER DOWNTIME

After a few weeks off, we are ready to reopen the Robertsdale Museum on November 30!

Even though we’ve not been open much, the museum was open for a group visit on Monday, October 21. Yes, that’s right; if you have a group of 10 or more people and promise to make a donation large enough to justify the efforts of the hosts, we’ll open the museum on days other than our normal operating Saturday hours. That offer will continue next year. Contact me for more information. We also hosted 25 guests on Saturday, October 26. That’s a pretty good day for our museum.

There have been several work sessions. In one, Gene Tucker and the track crew continued to extend the southern end of usable track. In another, Roy Burnham and Rick Rourke removed all the wheels from the railbikes. Why? After performing like champs throughout the reunion, on October 19, as Jane was taking a group on a bike tour, the weld on one wheel failed at just about the far end of the track. That was a long walk back with a sick bike. A review showed that all the wheels had only a single spot weld holding the wheel to the wheel center. Dave Domitrovich fixed that one, but a review showed that all the wheels had the same issue. He has since finished properly welding all the wheels. By the time you read this, they’ll all be back on the bikes and ready to go. Dave insists this did not slow down work on anything that boils water to create motion. This is another example of the cooperative relationship between FEBT and the railroad.



The cracked wheel weld, prior to EBT Foundation Chief Mechanical Officer Dave Domitrovich making the necessary repairs. – Roy Burnham photo

Although the bikes have had myriad problems, they are serving their purpose. They draw people in who otherwise wouldn't stop in Robertsdale. They also allow people to tour the mine area who couldn't do a walking tour. One day, all the weak spots on the railbikes will have been found and fixed. Until then, we'll just keep on making them better.



The museum opens again on Saturday, November 30, and will be open every Saturday up to (and including) December 21. The railbikes will be ready to roll. However as of the day I write this, the long-term forecast predicts a high temperature of 33 degrees in Robertsdale on November 30. So now might be a good time to state what I hope is obvious – railbike tours, and walking tours for that matter, are weather-dependent. But it's also true that right now the leaves are down and it's not going to be hot-and-sweaty days. There is no better time to come take a walking tour and really see all there is to see. – *Pete Clarke*

Someone is spiking the candy canes at the FEBT Museum. – Jane Clarke photo

OCTOBER 2024 ROCKHILL RESTORATION WORK SESSION

The October work weekend was held in Rockhill Furnace on Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27 (just after the deadline for the November newsletter). We had a great turnout on Saturday with 33 FEBT adult volunteers, plus 18 Young Easties and family members. Progress continued Sunday with 14 FEBT volunteers. Activities included track work on the March to Saltillo (see separate article on Page 11), Combine 14, Boxcar 174, windows, Storehouse, and building siding and roof repair.

The FEBT window crew was busy reglazing shop windows.



Roger Stier, Bill Adams, Bryan Riegle, and Marcia Riegle work on reglazing windows in the Carpentry Shop. – Dave Bulman photo



The Combine 14 crew continued work on the large baggage doors, with the exterior green paint applied to both doors. Interior finish trim installation continued in the baggage section, and interior painting continued with the ceiling of the small toilet room, painting of the baggage bench seat frames, and other touch-ups. Work also began on steam forming new wooden trim pieces for the rattan seat backs.



*Left: Dave Ebright and Joe Izzo working on trim installation in the baggage section.
Right: Joe Izzo and Greg Wolfersheim apply exterior paint on Combine 14's large baggage doors.
– Dave Bulman photos*

Work on Boxcar 174 focused on oak floor installation and installing supports for the interior wood sheathing.

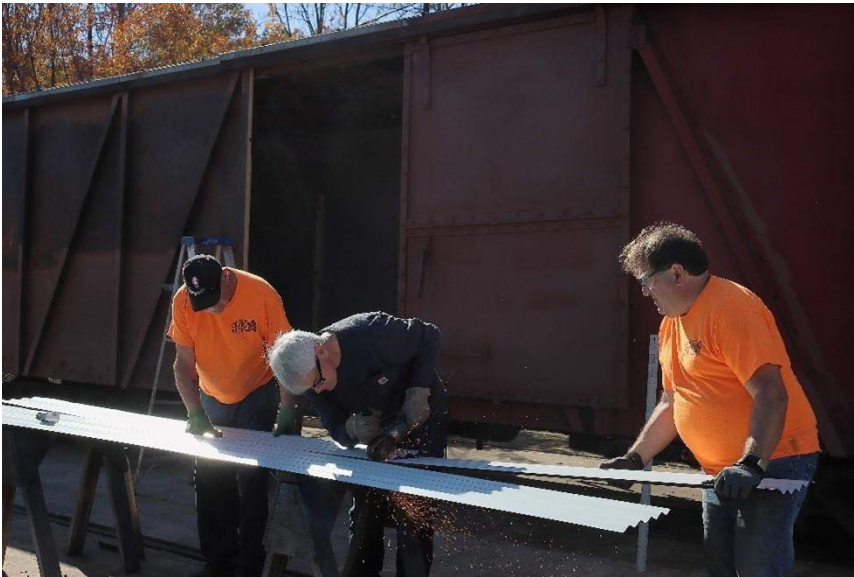
*Right: Steve Jacobs and Russ Semen install new oak flooring in box car 174. – Dave Bulman photo
Below: Chris McCann takes a break from organizing pipe fittings on the second floor of Storehouse 1. – Dave Bulman photo.*



Work in the Storehouse focused on organizing pipe fittings on the second floor.

In addition, some roof panels that had blown off the corner of the lumber shed were replaced, and loose siding on the carpenter shop was secured.





We've made great progress in Rockhill this year, but there is much more to do. We can use more volunteers on all projects. If you'd like to help with these and other projects, please consider joining us! If you are interested in participating in the Rockhill sessions, including track work and are not on the current signup distribution, or if you have questions or suggestions about volunteering please contact Dave Bulman, the FEBT Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@febt.org.
 – Dave Bulman

Tom Perman, Dave Bulman, and Wayne Cass cut new metal roof panels for the lumber shed. – Chris McCann photo

LAYIN' TRACK, BUILDING A BRIDGE

The FEBT track crew has reverted to a one-day-per-week schedule since the beginning of November. In late October, however, we were quite busy, working two days in the last week of the month, and engaging in the October Work Weekend on October 26, which incorporated participants on our Young Easties program (please see the related article on Page 7 of this issue). Since there was no Work Weekend in November, we mounted a work party in Robertsdale/Wood on November 9. Here are the details of our accomplishments...

994 or Bust!

As I write this (on a snowy, wintry November 22nd), the assembled track is now only 50 feet from the PA Route 994 grade crossing. Gauged and spiked track is 550 feet from the crossing. So, we're getting close, very close, to the milestone of reaching 994.

A southward view, from just over 500 feet north of the Pogue Road crossing. The light poles of the Southern Huntingdon HS football field are evident in the background. – Gene Tucker photo





Robertsdale/Wood

On November 9, 15 of our number came to expand the reach of the track for use by railbikes, handcars, and speeders south of Robertsdale and north of the village of Wood. Due to the large number present, we were able to construct another bridge over a small washout (this one is 12 feet long). We also installed 10 crossties to correct gauge, and brush cutting took place to the south of the new bridge. As a result, the useable track was extended by several hundred feet. More work will be needed to complete this expansion. We are planning for another work session on Saturday, December 14, to continue removal of growth, small trees and saplings, and to clear the railhead and flangeways of the track, also correcting gauge as needed. Once this work is done, we will have gone as far as we can go, for the southern limit of usable track will have been reached, at a point about 50 yards north of the roadway in Wood.

People, Our Greatest Treasure!

Track workers at the East Broad Top relive the days of yore in many of the things we do to construct/reconstruct track. That is to say, though we have powered spiking guns, a truck with a Prentice lift to heft ties and rail, and skid steer machines to assist with various tasks, we are still setting spikes by hand (and driving them by hand in places near joints where the spiking gun is unable to access the spike), we are still working with picks and shovels when required, we are nipping ties by hand when the spiking is going on, and we are setting gauge by hand. All of this takes people to do the “stuff” we do.

We are fortunate to have a large contingent of track workers (the email roster of track workers now totals about nearly 90 persons!) from which to draw our help.

During this reporting period, 40 of our number assisted in our work. We also welcomed seven new members: William Rush, Jonathan Miller, Jeff Miller, Christian McCann, Daniel Klinger, Christian Shelley and Jen Taylor. Welcome, each one of you.

Above: A side view of the new 12' washout span just north of Woodvale. – Gene Tucker photo
Left: Not an empty seat to be found on the work train heading south over Jordan Summit towards Pogue on Saturday, October 26. – Gene Tucker photo

Some Year-End Observations

December is often a time when we look over our shoulders at the course of the year which is about to end. We also look forward into the prospects for the coming year.

This year, 2024, has seen some unbelievable achievements. Consider, for example, that in October 2023, track work stood at the Odd Fellows Cemetery grade crossing. Now, the assembled track is 10,100 feet further south (if my calculations are correct). Or, consider that, in the past seven months, 7,800 feet of track has been constructed, from the PA Route 475 crossing to the 994 crossing.

This is the perfect opportunity to say that the bulk of the supplies (ties, ballast stone, spikes and bolts) used in this work was supplied by past contributions to FEBT's fundraising campaigns. Each contributor, therefore, becomes an active partner in this work.

It's a worthwhile and important aspect of our work to consider and reconsider how our work as FEBT volunteers fits into the overall planning of the East Broad Top Foundation, and the railroad's management and staff. Such a reflection ought to take place regularly. The simple and appropriate conclusion is that we, the Friends of the East Broad Top, are junior partners in the work of restoring and preserving the railroad. The Foundation and the management are the senior partners, for they are the ones who develop the plans, provide the direction to the staff, and oversee our work and the results. As we think about the railroad's staff, we should mention that the FEBT track crew is deeply thankful for the support that General Manager Brad Esposito and James Roslund, Director of Engineering, provide throughout the year, and for Henry Long and Galen Covert, the railroad's track personnel. They are a delight to work with and to work under. We look forward to a promising and productive year in 2025. – Gene Tucker



Track crew members align main line rail on the south face of Jordan Summit in November 2024. – Gene Tucker photo

NOVEMBER CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Progress continued on multiple projects in November, enabled by your donations to the FEBT Campaign. The combined FEBT volunteer and EBTF full time track crew advanced the assembled track from just south of McCoy Rd. to the Rt. 994 crossing (see full article on Page 11) facilitated by 2024 Campaign-funded track materials. Ballasting and tamping also continued south of PA 475, and the FEBT Board authorized the purchase of an additional 25 truckloads of ballast, anticipated to be sufficient to complete work to Rt. 994.

The March to Saltillo approaches Rt. 994 with FEBT Campaign-funded track materials. – Al Gallo photo

The Archives team was busy in November scanning and cataloging a variety of collections for release to the public. Featured were a series of photographs found in the downstairs vault of the Orbisonia Passenger Station that included many images of Robertsdale, including the second addition to the enginehouse, built in 1927. (An earlier discovery of the Archives identified the first extension as being built in 1917.)

The Robertsdale enginehouse's second extension was discovered to have been completed in January 1927. – EBT Archives collection



Also, EBT Board of Directors' Minutes, Volumes 7 and 8, with indexes created by Vagel Keller, were released. Another exciting addition was an original drafting linen of the rebuild specifications of EBT's engine No. 1 boiler that was found in the collections of the Reading Company Technical & Historical Society, Hamburg, Pa. The Society graciously donated the drawing to the Archives, which will be available for public access in December. Archivist Julie Fether Rockwell visited the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum to meet their archivists and receive the drawing in person.

Efforts have also continued to prepare for the reconstruction of Saltillo Station, with the FEBT/EBTF project team finalizing the proposal for the rebuild of the station exterior.

NOVEMBER FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thanks to our very generous donors, we are off to a strong start on the 2025 Campaign. November donations totaled \$52,756 in 220 donations. Please know that the FEBT appreciates your help to support its goals of restoring, preserving, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad. Thank you!

November donors*:

Robert Achilles	Stephen Adik		
Fr. Alexei Alexiev	Lawrence E. Altoff	Beth Ann Andrews	John J. Atherton
Paul Backenstose	Jeffrey W. Barkdoll	Donald G. Bayer	Michael Bezilla
Lawrence Biemiller	Paul & Lynn Binney	Kendrick Bisset	William O. Blome
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Gorman Findley	Douglas E. Fink	William Fitch	Kenneth T. Folwell
David Ford	John Forr	Andrew Fox	Edmund M. Fox

2025 Campaign Goal:

\$270,000

November Donations:

\$52,756

Campaign Total:

\$114,392 – 42.4%

Joel Frailey	Irwin From	Robert Fry	Larry Fuchs
William A. Gast	Dean Gaugler	Daren Genau	Robert Gilbert
Ted Gingrich	Rustin Glessner	Francis A. Goad	Sandy M. Grabowski
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Larry Zilch Jr.	Robert Zimmerman	Robert E. Zischkau Jr.	

In memory of Barbara A. Muldowney:
Ronald J. Muldowney

In memory of Walter W. Smith:
John Carl

* - All donors listed represent donations received between October 22, 2024 and November 21, 2024. Donations received after November 21 will be reported in the January 2025 issue due to press time constraints.

The 2025 Annual Campaign runs October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. The FEBT Fundraising Treasurer may be contacted at:

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.

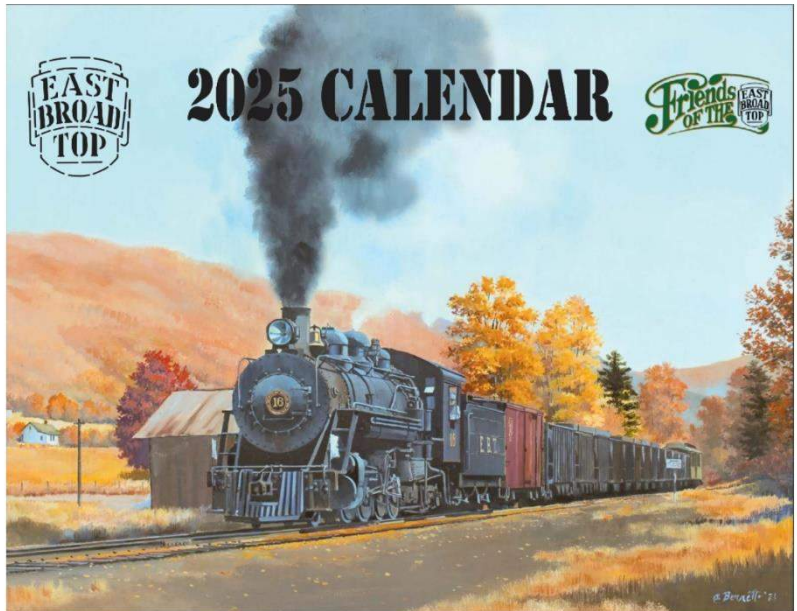
Thank you for your generous support! – *Karen Bulman and Dave Bulman*

FEBT COMPANY STORE FEATURED ITEM OF THE MONTH

The 2025 East Broad Top Calendar, a joint effort between the Friends of the East Broad Top and the EBT Foundation, is now available! 2025's theme is "EBT Illustrations", highlighting the works of 6 artists who have taken inspiration from our National Historic Landmark. Some of these images are being shared for the first time, others are available from each artist's respective websites. Each calendar features 12 unique images.

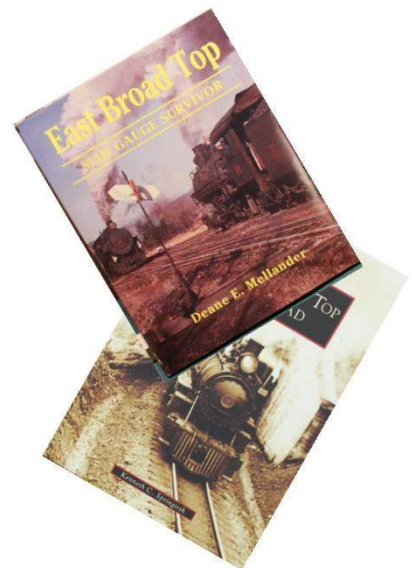
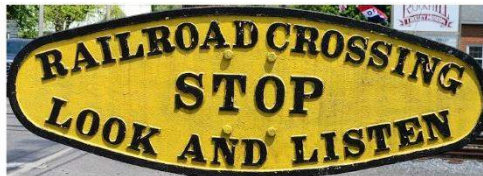
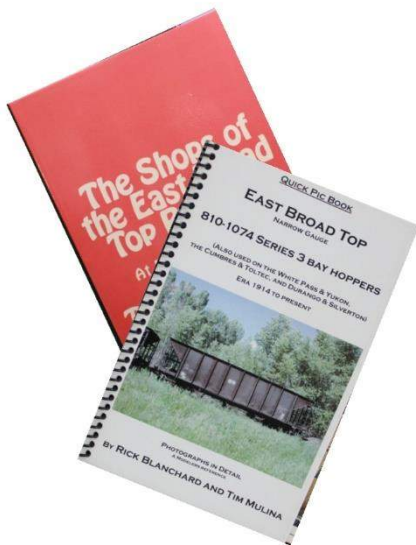
\$19.99

Member discount applies



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FEBT COMPANY STORE



Did you know that the FEBT Company Store has 30 books and magazines in stock that feature the East Broad Top Railroad or related topics?

Here is your opportunity to fill in some holes in your library, or start a wish list for the upcoming holiday season!

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.*

WANTS AND NEEDS

Organized? Detail oriented? Diligent? We need you!

FEBT continues to grow in every way imaginable – membership is over two thousand, restoration activities are running non-stop, archive material donations are coming in, our museum and railbikes are attracting more visitors than ever, and our finances are stronger than ever thanks to your generous support! All of this success is quite remarkable but is taxing our core team of volunteer leadership. To maintain the current pace of activity and continue to grow and strengthen our programs we need your help behind the scenes. If you have time, basic communications and computer skills, and a sincere interest in making FEBT all it can be, we need you! So much of what we need can be done from the comfort of your home. If you are interested in helping please contact me at vanscyoc@gmail.com. – *Andy Van Scyoc*

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

The following members volunteered in November in Rockhill Furnace, Robertsdale, and/or with the track crew, including the 2024 Reunion. Thanks to all FEBT volunteers for their dedicated efforts to preserve, restore, and interpret the EBT.

Bill Adams	Stacey Batovsky	Lawrence Biemiller	Vonny Boarts
Victor Booth	Dave Bulman	Roy Burnham	Wayne Cass
Jane Clarke	Pete Clarke	Chris Connacher	Dave Ebright
Ron Elliot	Jack Fornadley	Larry Fuchs	Al Gallo
Bobby Goldby	Tyler Grissinger	Dave Hart	Tom Hesketh
Joe Izzo	Steve Jackson	Steve Jacobs	Dave Johnson
Tom Jordan	Vagel Keller	Daniel Klinger	Eric Knepp
Ed Kompare	Daniel Lane	Kevin Lekas	Matthew Malkiewicz
Christian McCann	Margie McFalls	Ray McFalls	Jeff Miller
Jonathan Miller	Joel Myers	Dave Padula	Sam Painter
Tom Perman	Rich Poletto	John Quinn	Mark Reese
Bill Reynolds	Bryan Riegle	Marcia Riegle	Rick Rourke
Jon Rudman	William Rush	Justin Santichen	Jack Schindele
Tim Schindele	Russ Semen	Christian Shelley	Blair Stewart
Roger Stier	Jen Taylor	Gene Tucker	Lamar Tyson
Andy Van Scyoc	Mike Wahler	John Widmeyer	Norm Wilcox
Scarlett Wirt	Brian Wolfe	Greg Wolfersheim	Charlie Wootton
Adam Wright			

NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED

A new advisory team, charged with promoting the eventual return of the East Broad Top Railroad to Robertsdale/Wood, was created Monday, November 18 at a meeting held in the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum in Robertsdale. Attending the session were representatives of the EBT Foundation Inc., Friends of the East Broad Top, Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society, Wood and Todd township supervisors, and other Broad Top and Trough Creek Valley area community leaders.

Located on the southern end of the narrow-gauge East Broad Top Railroad, the two municipalities have joined forces to create the “EBT Mountain Heritage Committee.” The Wood Township Supervisors endorsed the creation of the board at their July meeting followed by the approval of the formation by Todd Township Supervisors at their July session. The purpose of the committee is to support the eventual restoration of the EBT to Robertsdale/Wood, encourage community support, revitalization efforts, and entrepreneurship opportunities not only in Wood and Todd townships, but other communities of the Broad Top and Trough Creek Valley.

The new advisory committee, like the one fashioned by Three Springs and Saltillo boroughs and Clay Township, will offer support and share input for the multi-phase EBT restoration project while inspiring the development of visitors' amenities such as overnight accommodations, places to eat and other community enhancements.



On hand to discuss current EBT restoration activities and promotional efforts were Brad Esposito, the railroad's general manager and Jonathan Smith, EBT director of sales and marketing. Esposito congratulated committee members for their long-term commitment to the multi-phase EBT restoration project and efforts to prepare the Robertsdale/Wood area for the ensuing arrival of the EBT steam locomotives.

EBT Foundation GM Brad Esposito addresses the inaugural meeting of the EBT Mountain heritage Committee on November 18, 2024. – Ron Morgan photo

“It will be a while before the trains come into Robertsdale, but in the meantime ongoing activities of the FEBT and Coal Miners Museum will help fill the void,” remarked Esposito. “We want to continue to work closely with the FEBT and the Coal Miners Museum to prepare for future EBT-related activities.”

The EBT general manager also recognized the FEBT for its ongoing restoration work on Robertsdale's “Company Square” as well as rehabilitation of the one mile stretch of narrow gauge right of way between Robertsdale and Wood, used for railbike excursions.

Some of the proposals outlined by Esposito for Robertsdale involve the use of the railroad line to Cooks, improvements of the EBT wye, and plans for the construction of a replica of the EBT enginehouse, which would play a major role in the expansion of railbike activities. The EBT also plans to do repair work at the former coal company office across from the FEBT Museum complex and future enhancements to the Ruth George Playground.

Smith shared ideas about serving the needs of tourists visiting Robertsdale, while outlining the many attributes rural Southern Huntingdon County and the Broad Top area have to offer. “It's a very significant area filled with history, it's something that people want to see.”

The railroad right-of-way from Kimmel to Cooks, including both tunnels and the “Mule Shoe Curve”, lie in Todd Township, while the remainder of the right of way from Cooks to Robertsdale/Wood are in Wood Township. There are several railroad bridges located along the southern stretch of mainline right-of-way in need of rehabilitation. Work is already planned for spans at Pogue and Three Springs thanks to the recent awarding of state rehabilitation monies in Cromwell and Clay townships, respectively.

The new committee members will continue to meet monthly after the holidays, alternating the sessions between Todd and Wood township municipal headquarters and other designated locations. The committee chose Coal Miners Museum president Ron Morgan of Robertsdale to head up the new organization and Todd Township Supervisor Bill Hall, Newburg, as vice-chairman. A secretary will be appointed at the January 2025 committee meeting.

It was stressed during Monday night's meeting that the new committee is committed to spotlighting the “Mountain Section” of the railroad, the eastern side of the semi-bituminous Broad Top Coal Field and the Broad Top area. Representatives from the railroad, FEBT and the Broad Top area are encouraged to become a part of the committee's activities.

Looking to the future, the new committee envisions continuing economic development along the line in southern Huntingdon County and the Broad Top and Trough Creek Valley areas, with an emphasis on preservation and promotional efforts that focus on the area's industrial, transportation and cultural heritage. – Ron Morgan

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
December 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country
December 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22	RTM	Lights, Camera, Trolleys!
December 7, 14	RTM	Santa's Trolley
December 7	BTACMHS	Annual Reorganization Meeting
December 14	FEBT	Robertsdale Work Session
January 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 3	FEBT	FEBT Museum Opening Day 2025
May 3	BTACMHS	Broad Top Coal Miners Museum Opening Day 2025
October 3, 4, 5	FEBT	2025 Fall Reunion

<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 Restoration Work Weekend will take place Saturday and Sunday, January 4 and 5. The remainder of the 2025 Rockhill Furnace Work Session schedule will be available soon. 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.

If you have questions about volunteering, or have suggestions for our volunteer recruiting efforts, please email me at volunteer@febt.org. – Dave Bulman

UPCOMING ROBERTSDALE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

There will be a Robertsdale track work session on Saturday, December 14. Please contact Gene Tucker if you are interested in participating. – Doug Davenport

FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

The FEBT Museum will be open Saturdays during the Christmas in Coal Country event:

December 7, 14, 21

Operating hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.






LIGHTS, CAMERA, CHRISTMAS TROLLEYS


Nov. 29 – Dec. 22

Fri. 5-9, Sat. 2-9, Sun. 2-5:30

\$12 Adult, \$10 Child – Rain, Snow or Shine

- * Take a late-afternoon/evening ride on a heated and restored antique trolley!
- * See lighted holiday displays and take advantage of all the photo opportunities
- * On the way back to Santa's Workshop, enjoy our walk-through display area!
- * Enjoy free hot chocolate, cookies & a model train/trolley layout in Santa's Workshop

39TH
ANNIVERSARY



SANTA'S TROLLEY

December 7 & 14

2 Saturdays ONLY, 9 AM to 1 PM

Only \$5 Per Ticket – Under 2 FREE

- * All children 12 years & under will talk to Santa & receive a FREE treat!
- * Children of all ages will enjoy riding in a heated and restored antique trolley.
- * Enjoy a model train and trolley display in our heated Santa's Workshop.
- * Stop by our museum store to purchase souvenirs/gifts!

Location & Contacts: 430 Meadow St. Rockhill Furnace (Orbisonia), PA 17249
814-447-9576, 610-428-7200 Just off US 522 on PA 994 across from the East Broad Top Railroad

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rockhilltrolley) www.RockhillTrolley.org

Rockhill Trolley Museum, AKA Railways to Yesterday, Inc., Pennsylvania's first operating trolley museum, is a 501(c)(3) volunteer, non-profit, educational organization. Join us! We appreciate your support and enjoy serving the community with these exciting annual events.

FROM THE *TIMBER TRANSFER* EDITOR'S DESK

Electronic subscriptions

Pete and I have had several inquiries about receiving *Timber Transfer* electronically only. Most recently was from a British member who simply wanted to save FEBT some money on postage. We discussed this option at the January 2023 FEBT board meeting.

Our conclusion was to offer this option to all members. There would NOT be a reduction in the membership rate. The savings on printing and postage would be passed on to the FEBT general fund. Look at it as a way to make your membership dues do more.

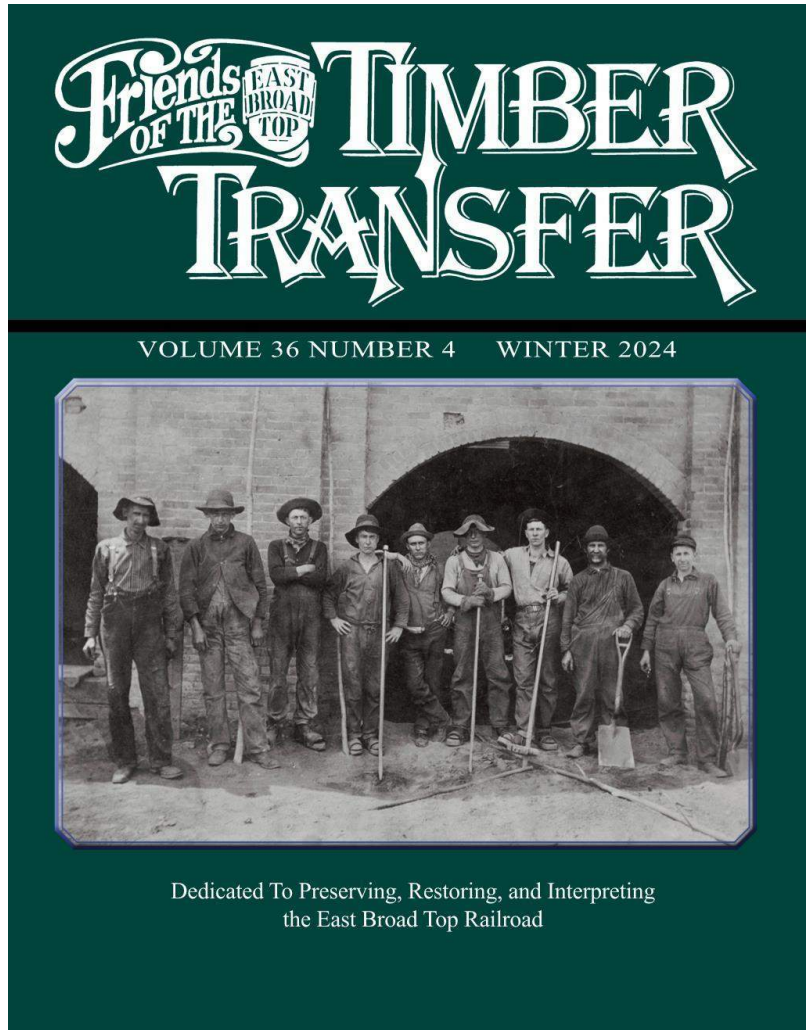
To let us know that you don't want to get the printed copy of *TT*, send an email to Pete (febt@aol.com) giving your name and clearly stating that you want to opt out of getting the printed version of the *TT*. You can change this option, but not after the current issue has been mailed.

Electronic subscribers should watch the FEBT Newsletter for the announcement that the latest *TT* is available. Any inserts associated with that issue would be published, or linked to, in the newsletter. A separate email will not be generated. To get the free, high-resolution version of *TT* each member should log in to their Company Store account. Once you log in, the Company Store knows if you are a member or not. Only members can see the option to download the *TT*. It appears in the left, just below the "Product Categories" section. The size of the high-resolution file prevents it from being emailed directly.

I send the FEBT Company Store the files for the latest *TT* at the time I send them to our publisher. I try to time it so that the magazine gets to members the first week of March, June, September, and December. Electronic subscribers might be able to download the magazine a few days earlier than others receive the paper version.

I think most members like the paper *TT*. However, there are many reasons for wanting it electronically: save the organization money, reduce the clutter of magazines in your house, save a few trees, being able to read it from anywhere on any device, etc. FEBT is happy to accommodate you!

To summarize: The default is that all members get a printed copy of *Timber Transfer*. All members may download the current issue of the *TT* from the Company Store website. That's the way things have been and still are, nothing has changed. However, if you would prefer to not get the printed copy of the *TT*, you can now do that. To stop getting the printed copy, just send an email to the membership office at febt@aol.com in which you request to no longer get the printed *TT*. Not getting the printed *TT* does not change your membership dues. You may change your option, but not retroactively. If you opted for the electronic version and now wish to have a printed copy of it, you need to purchase it from the Company Store. – *Jane Clarke*



The Winter 2024 Timber Transfer is now available for download from the FEBT Company Store, and will be in your mailbox shortly (if it hasn't arrived already).

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 febt.org/ for more information.



The new southern end of usable track for speeders and railbikes just north of Woodvale, as established on November 9. – Sam Painter 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. Previous issues of the FEBT Newsletter may be found at febt.org/newsletter. 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.