Friends of the East Broad Top
www.febt.org

NEWSLETTER

Preservation Restoration Interpretation

Volume 7, Issue 10 **October 2026**



The combined FEBT and EBTF track crews begin track construction in Pogue using 2026 campaign-funded materials as part of the March to Saltillo. – Al Gallo photo

IN THIS ISSUE:

The 2027 Campaign Kicks Off as the 2026 Campaign Sets a New Record! 3
East Broad Top Railroad Station to Return to Three Springs, PA 7
The Track Gang's Work Week Doin's (And Other Things) 7
September Rockhill Restoration Work Sessions Recap 9
September Volunteers 11
September Archives Accomplishments 11
Photograph Collector Arnold Menke 12
Robertsdale Report 13
Online FEBT Membership is Back Up and Running 14
Young Easties in the Archives 15
The EBT's Pumpkin Patch Needs You! 16
Company Store Item of the Month 16
Miners Museum Happenings 17
Items for Sale to Benefit FEBT 18
Upcoming Events 18
Upcoming Rockhill Furnace Volunteer Sessions 19
FEBT Museum Schedule 19



James Roslund reassembles a truck of Combine 14 on September 18. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo

THE 2027 CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF AS THE 2026 CAMPAIGN SETS A NEW RECORD!

The 2027 FEBT Campaign is now underway after a record breaking 2026. The 2026 Campaign total stands at $555,719, exceeding last year's total of $541,109. Thank you for your amazing support! Let's review what your 2026 donations accomplished and what we hope to do in 2027.

2026 Campaign Goal:
$350,000
September Donations:
$51,140
Campaign Total:
$555,719 – 158.8%

The March to Saltillo progressed on multiple fronts. We've completed construction of over 3,500 feet of track north from the Saltillo station including the station siding to date. Your support of the 2026 campaign beyond the initial goal has also allowed us to fund the clearing of the remaining right-of-way between Saltillo and Three Springs. Additionally, a generous naming rights donation to the EBT Foundation will purchase the materials to build track on the cleared right-of-way all the way to Route 994 in Three Springs. Further north, track construction has begun south of Pogue Station on both the main and siding using materials purchased with 2026 Campaign funds on ROW cleared by the 2025 Campaign.



Above: Combined FEBT and EBTF track crews install campaign-funded track materials in Saltillo. – Al Gallo photo
Below: The Saltillo station agent's office with new 2026 campaign-funded siding installed. – Mark Resse photo

Your support of the 2027 Campaign will allow us to keep the March to Saltillo moving and fully connect the boroughs of the Three Springs and Saltillo by rail. We plan to raise $150,000 to provide ballast for the new track between Saltillo and Three Springs, provide track materials to rebuild the main and siding through Three Springs, and provide the materials to rebuild the 994/Church St crossing. These accomplishments complement FEBT's forthcoming rebuilding of the Saltillo water tank and the EBT Foundation's announcement of the rebuilding of Three Springs Station (see Page 7).



The new Saltillo Station moved toward completion in 2026 with the installation of replica interior materials funded by the 2026 campaign and completion of electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems. FEBT volunteers also installed the functional train order signal and a replica station sign.

The EBT Archives team had a busy year in 2026, publicly releasing over 1,400 images, including photographs, ephemera, bound volume pages, and corporate records from the EBT Foundation and FEBT collections through the Digital Catalog's monthly exhibits. The team also launched the Archival Arrangement Project which completed a detailed inventory of the EBT corporate records and objects retained within the Orbisonia Passenger Station's 1st floor vault, re-housed EBT and Rockhill Iron & Coal Company correspondence from deteriorating document boxes into 72 bins for future processing, inventoried 700 EBT employee records, and began conducting detailed inventories in other vaults and the attic. All of this was made possible by your support of the 2026 campaign.



In 2027, the Archives will continue to process and share the corporate records from EBT and Rockhill Iron & Coal Company, as well as archive materials and photographs and prepare to transition to a new facility in Mount Union. Our goal is to allocate $95,000 from the 2027 FEBT Campaign to make this work possible.

The current EBT Archives collection exhibit can be viewed https://ebtarchives.catalogaccess.com/ and click the "What's New?" tab on the left.

Locomotive No. 15 - Your support of prior FEBT Campaigns has enabled a new tender tank to be procured and has provided funding for the trailing truck and new staybolts. Now we want to continue with work to restore 15's tender frame to go under the new tank. The 2027 FEBT campaign plans to contribute $25,000 to support this effort.





Top: Early EBT Shops. – EBT Archives photo, FEBT.2026.23.1, William S. Lamb Collection
Above: Archives Technician Amelia Kasdorf works on the Archival Arrangement Project in the Orbisonia Station's downstairs vault. – Julie Fether photo
Left: Locomotive No. 15's new campaign-funded tender tank, with tender frame in foreground. – Al Gallo photo

Rockhill Restoration made great strides in 2026. The windows crew installed more than 31 restored window sashes, impressive progress was made on Combine 14 and Boxcar 174/955, and we launched stabilization efforts on two additional boxcars. The Coal Dock was returned to operation after several years of joint EBTF and FEBT efforts. Storehouse 2 was literally rebuilt from the ground up. And we were able to fund the needed replacement of the turntable side of the roundhouse roof.



In 2027, the goal is to raise $70,000 to continue our important efforts in Rockhill. These will include installing new roofs on rebuilt Storehouses 1 and 2 and completing the replacement of the Meadow St. side of the roundhouse roof.

Future Restoration Needs - We can't always forecast all of our restoration needs a year in advance. An example is the recently launched boxcar stabilization project and the materials required for it. We were able to support this new effort with contingency funds included in the 2026 campaign. We'd like to set aside $35,000 from the 2027 campaign to allow us to continue to support new or unexpected restoration needs.



We enter the 2027 Campaign amazed by all that we've accomplished together in 2026, and excited by what we can achieve next year. With your help, we hope to raise a total of $375,000 through the 2027 FEBT Campaign to make it all happen. Any additional funds we are able to raise beyond that goal will go to support and accelerate select projects, including the March to Saltillo. Please watch the linked video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34iVynrBNhM for more info on the 2027 Campaign. The FEBT YouTube channel is a great way to monitor the progress we continue to make.

Your continued support of the 2027 Campaign will provide needed track materials for the March to Saltillo, allow the completion of the Saltillo Station, continue building restoration in Rockhill Furnace, continue to fund the East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections activities, support the restoration of Locomotive No. 15, and support other projects to preserve, restore, and interpret the EBT.

Top: Engine No. 16 in front of the newly operational Rockhill Coal Dock. – Dave Bulman photo
Above: Storehouse 2 with new foundation, framing, siding, and paint; all supplied by the FEBT campaign. – Dave Bulman photo

September donors:*

Lawrence E. Altoff	Owen F. Beeder, Jr.	Thomas Bowdler	Alexander Bowser
James A. Brehm	Laurence Carbonetti	Paul M. Carpenito	Steven M. Chorkawy
Gerald Clearwater	Frank Couch	Bruce Courter	Dan Cupper
Neal & Laura DeShazo	George J. Dvorak II	Frank R. Dziama	Wade C. Eagleton
Robert Farquharson	Donald Fenstermacher	Douglas E. Fink	John Gifford
Charlene Gillam	Philip J. Grabowski	Sandy M. Grabowski	Jeffrey Haslam
John Helduser	William Hessler	Charles W. High	Cliff Howell
James & Julie Hughes	Victor Humphreys	James Helmbold	Dave Johnson
Wayne Johnson	William Kepner	Victor V. Kidd	Michael Koch
Keith A. Kreider	William Larduskey	Marlin Diehl	Jesse J. Meeker
Linn W. Moedinger	Michael Moore	Bob Rands	David Rink
Robert H. Holmes	Michael E. Romansky	Anthony Sallo III	Robert Savino
Robert Sembach	James W. Seville	William Shaffer	David E. Sherburn
Robert D. Shotsberger	Vernon Simpson	Peter Smykla	Jim Stapleton
John Stutz	Gene & Deborah Tucker	Robert Willhite	Brian Wolfe
Terrill L. Woolsey	John S. Yoder		

In memory of Bonnie Phillips:
David A. Phillips

* - All donors listed represent donations received between August 22, 2026 and September 21, 2026. Donations received after September 21 will be reported in the November 2026 issue due to press time constraints, along with final numbers on the 2026 Campaign results.

The 2026 Campaign concluded on September 30, 2026. The 2027 Campaign began October 1, 2026 and runs through September 30, 2027. You may donate online (credit card and PayPal accepted) at the FEBT Company Store, https://store.febt.org/donate. 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. – *Dave and Karen Bulman*





EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD STATION TO RETURN TO THREE SPRINGS, PA

The EBT Foundation announced on Sept. 23, 2026 plans to rebuild the East Broad Top's Three Springs railroad station. The Foundation has received a $1 million grant from Pennsylvania's Redevelopment and Capital Assistance Program that will fund the construction of a new station in Three Springs, PA as well as repairs to the existing Tank House Bridge in Saltillo, PA. The original Three Springs Station was demolished in 1954, and the new building will be a close recreation of the original structure based on original drawings from the East Broad Top Railroad archives. Externally, construction will mimic the appearance of the station in the 1950's while the interior will incorporate small changes to improve functionality and accessibility while maintaining its historic appearance. This announcement complements the EBTF and FEBT March to Saltillo plans to reconnect the two boroughs by rail in 2027. – *Dave Bulman*



The original Three Springs Station. – EBT Archives photo, FEBT.2024.23.3, Peter Barney Photograph Collection

THE TRACK GANG'S WORK WEEK DOIN'S (AND OTHER THINGS)

Our personnel got around to various parts of the railroad's property in this month's report. We did some maintenance work on the main south of Colgate Grove. We worked to prepare for later construction north of Saltillo and also south of Pogue Station. And, of course, there was the FEBT's Fall Work Week, spanning the week of September 14, which resulted in much more progress.

Preparatory Work: Brush Cutting North of Saltillo

We began this reporting period's work by preparing for the laying of track on the right-of-way (ROW) north of Saltillo. On Thursday, August 27, five of our number began at a point about half a mile north of the new station, and worked our way north perhaps another half-a-mile, until we reached the point where the trees and other vegetation have yet to be cleared. (Recently, FEBT's Board of Directors authorized the expenditure of funds to clear that section of the ROW, a distance of about 7/10 mile, which will open up the ROW for track construction to the south side of the Borough of Three Springs.)

Maintenance: Tie Installation South of Colgate Grove

On Monday and Tuesday, August 31 and September 1, we assisted the railroad's full-time crew in the installation of 62 ties in the track south of Colgate Grove.

More Preparatory Work: Distribution of Supplies in Pogue

On Thursday, September 10, a small crew assisted with distributing Other Track Material (OTM) on the ROW south of the Pogue Station. Tie plates, spikes, bolts, and other fasteners were laid out along the line in preparation for track construction that took place during the Work Week.

FEBT's Fall Work Week



Tamping of switches at Colgate Grove: The three switches in the wye at Colgate Grove received some Tender Loving Care on the first two days of the Work Week. Work consisted of restoring the surface of the switches (using track jacks where the lift was significant), applying ballast, and tamping with the railroad's mechanical tamper. The railroad's machine is wonderfully versatile, since is a switch tamper (with flexibility in the tamping heads' movements), but some areas of switches are beyond its reach, so it was necessary to tamp with hand-held, air-powered jitterbug tampers in those areas (fun, fun…very loud work, requiring hearing protection for all involved).

Tie installation in the north leg of the Rockhill wye: On Tuesday of Work Week, our personnel assisted in the installation of 12 ties in the north leg of the wye, behind the area of the Post Office.

Track construction south of Pogue Station: Work began shortly after the work was done in Rockhill to construct the main track and the passing siding on the south side of the grade crossing across from Pogue Station. The week ended with a significant amount of new track assembled, gauged, and spiked.



The Keys to Our Success: Our Personnel and Our Contributors

Our people: Each month, we are blessed to have a healthy number of our gang working alongside the railroad's two full-time staff members, Henry Long (Foreman) and Zane Esposito. We are, with them, a unified team. In this month's reporting period, 24 of our number assisted in the work. Nineteen volunteers took part during Work Week.

We were blessed during Work Week to have personnel who come from a distance. This year, we had personnel from Florida, North Carolina, Colorado, and upstate New York. We also welcomed two new members to our work; Frank Peluso and Nick Stowell. Welcome, gents!

Our contributors: The materials we made use of in our work south of the Pogue Station were all purchased with funds that were generated during FEBT's fundraising campaigns. This means, of course, that each and every contributor is a member of the track team, and because of these concentrated and unified efforts, good things are a-happenin' at EBT.

Many thanks, one and all! – *Gene Tucker*

Above: Freshly dressed switches are tamped in at Colgate Grove. – Gene Tucker photo

Left: The first rail south of Spring Creek Road at Pogue is placed on September 15. – Larry Fuchs photo

SEPTEMBER ROCKHILL WORK SESSIONS RECAP







September included the work weekend on Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, followed by the fall Work Week from Monday to Friday, September 14 through 18. We had a total of 59 volunteers participate during the seven days, including five first time volunteers, and five Young Easties. Lunch was again provided each day for a donation in the Rockhill Trolley Museum (RTM) pavilion, and Wednesday evening we had our traditional FEBT-provided volunteer cookout (this time a steak dinner), followed by a trolley ride and a tour of RTM's trolley Carbarns 1 and 2. Thanks to Lawrence Biemiller, Eric Knepp, and Henry Long for the ride and tours. Brad Esposito and James Roslund also gave our volunteers updates on the Combine 14 truck rebuilding in Stall 8 of the roundhouse during the week. The mostly dry weather and good volunteer turnout resulted in great progress on a variety of projects, including lots of paint applied.

The Boxcar Crew completed painting on one of the cars being stabilized, and made major progress replacing deteriorated roof components on the second.

The Glass Rattlers had lots of help and made great progress installing restored sashes in the bus garage and restoring additional windows for future installation.

The Combine 14 team completed final paint touch-up and final installation of the last passenger section seat back.

The Storehouse Crew completed siding installation on the east and north walls, completed the second floor between Storehouses 1 and 2, and primed and painted the new siding on the east, west, and south external walls. A new gutter was also installed on the backside of the storehouse lean-to. In addition,

Top: Brad Esposito explains the progress on Combine 14's trucks to the FEBT volunteers in Stall 8 of the roundhouse. – Dave Bulman photo.
Center: Carman Servocky continues painting on one of the boxcars in the Rockhill Yard. – Al Gallo photo
Bottom: Jeanne Morse, David Grounds, Dan Schmidt, Bill Adams and Jim Seville restoring window sashes in the Carpentry Shop. – Dave Bulman photo

the team was able to scrape and paint the south end of lumber shed, install roof flashing over the new lumber shed lean-to roof, and restore and reinstall the wooden gable vent. The coal bin east wall was scraped in preparation for painting. Volunteers were also working in the foundry, cleaning the brass furnace and the gantry crane.

Our Saltillo Station team was busy inside and outside the new Saltillo Station. Interior siding installation was completed in the agent's office, and the original chimney closet and attic doors were reinstalled. The team also installed the original EBT train order signal and bracket to the post, including the original actuating pulleys, so that the signal is again functional as it was on the original station. Additionally, Bill Adams installed the replica Saltillo station sign that he created from the original sign. While this was happening in Saltillo, volunteers in Rockhill were stripping and repairing the original Saltillo Station restroom and agent's office doors to prepare them for installation in their original locations in the new station.

The track crew also had a busy week (see Gene's article on Page 7 for full details). They tamped switches at Colgate Grove, replaced ties in Rockhill, and launched track construction at Pogue; rebuilding a couple hundred feet of main and siding track heading south from Pogue station.

Our volunteers in Rockhill continue to make fantastic progress, but there remains much more to do. We can always use more help. If you'd like to contribute to these and other projects, please consider joining us! – *Dave Bulman*







Top: Eric Knepp touches up a seat back in Combine 14. – Al Gallo photo
Center: Bobby Goldby heads back to the window shop while Brent Kendrick, Nick Pautler, Dave Bulman, Alex Brown, and Larry Fuchs install new siding on Storehouse 2. – Al Gallo photo
Bottom: Bill Adams completing the installation of the replica Saltillo station sign that he created. – Dave Bulman photo

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

The following members volunteered from August 22 to September 21 in Rockhill Furnace, in Robertsdale, along the line, or remotely to support FEBT. Thanks to all FEBT volunteers for their dedicated efforts to preserve, restore, and interpret the EBT.

Bill Adams	Joan Adams	Jim Balogh	Robert Benkovitz
Lawrence Biemiller	Ron Bohm	John Bowie	Sue Briggs
Alexander Brown	Dave Bulman	Karen Bulman	Roy Burnham
Jane Clarke	Pete Clarke	Chris Coleman	Craig Confair
Chris Connacher	Alex Cook	Doug Davenport	Ralph Davidson
David Diano	George Dvorak	Dave Ebright	Julie Fether
Jack Fornadley	Larry Fuchs	Al Gallo	Lance Gilliland
Bobby Goldby	David Grounds	Charlie High	Dick Hoffman
Joyce Hoffman	Evan Ivosevic	Ted Ivosevic	Steve Jackson
Huston Jacobs	Steve Jacobs	Dave Johnson	Garth Jones
Vagel Keller	Brent Kendrick	Bill Kepner	Butch Kerchenske
Greg Kifer	Arthur Kinch	Eric Knepp	Ed Kompare
Daniel Lane	Doug Linebaugh	Matthew Malkiewicz	Ray McFalls
Curtis Miller	Jonathan Morningstar	Jeanne Morse	Richard Morse
Joel Myers	Kevin Nolish	Nick Pautler	Frank Peluso
Pauline Peluso	Dave Phillips	Hans Plugge	Matt Preston
John Quinn	Jon Radder	Becky Reese	Mark Reese
Bill Reynolds	Kevin Scanlon	Tim Schindele	Dan Schmidt
Carman Servocky	Jim Seville	Elaine Snider	Blair Stewart
Loretta Stoner	Nick Stowell	John Thompson	Kevin Tomasic
Jim Troup	Deb Tucker	Gene Tucker	Dick Ullery
Andy Van Scyoc	Mike Wahler	Bill Wheeler	John Widmeyer
Rob Willhite	Scarlett Wirt	Charlie Wootton	Steve Zuby

SEPTEMBER ARCHIVES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The EBT Archives team in September shared collections that were donated to the FEBT during the first ever EBT Descendants Reunion, organized by descendant Larry Steninger. Artifacts brought by descendants were scanned, and several generous physical donations were also accepted. The Archive team also hosted the Young Easties on September 12, helping them to learn about how the Archives identifies EBT artifacts and documents to conduct an inventory (see Tim's article on Page 15). In addition, an Archives display and tours of the vault were offered during the Society of Industrial Archeology's visit to the EBT. Three new donations were accepted into the EBT Foundation collections that include an EBT Souvenir record album (No. 3 in the press series and never played), large print EBT photographs, and EBT black and white photographs from 1968 and 1973. – *Dave Bulman*



Engine No. 14 at Clean-out Rack with Employees. – EBT Archives photo, FEBT.2026.18.13, Joann Kimmel Photograph Collection

PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTOR ARNOLD MENKE

Over the last five years, the East Broad Top Archives and Special Collections has been fortunate to receive many significant photographic collections. October's digital exhibit features a recently donated collection (EBTF.2025.25) by avid rail photography collector and Friends member, Arnold Menke. To view the new exhibit, please visit the Archives' Digital Catalog at https://ebtarchives.catalogaccess.com/ and click on the "What's New?" tab. Menke is one of the generous donors whose contributions have enriched the archives and are now accessible to the public. Thank you, Mr. Menke!



In addition to being a prominent collector of rail photography, Arnold Menke is also a published railroad historian. Based in Arizona, Menke has researched the Southern Pacific Railroad (SP) and published *The Compendium Companion*, which provides updates, annotations, and errata to *Southern Pacific Steam Locomotive Compendium*, a comprehensive reference book on the SP. He also wrote a chapter on tenders in *Southern Pacific Ten-Coupled Locomotives* by Robert Church.

Beyond railroads, Menke is a noted entomologist and a world authority on wasps, publishing books and many articles on the topic. Most notably, in 1972, Menke discovered a new species of wasp which he famously named the "Aha ha" after exclaiming "Aha, a new genus," with a fellow entomologist responding with a doubtful "ha."

Menke's photographic collection, EBTF.2025.25, features print photographs, black-and-white negatives, and color positives of scenes from the common carrier and Kovalchick tourist eras. This collection includes images of a wide variety of rolling stock, an EBT Transit Co. coach, and freight and passenger trains along the line, spanning nearly 60 years of EBT history. Almost all images were titled and dated, an uncommon perk, especially for such a large and varied collection.



EBTF.2025.25 was not the first collection that Arnold Menke donated to the EBT Archives. In 2024, Menke gifted a series of 119 black-and-white negatives of largely common carrier

Top: EBT View South Orbisonia, 1958. – EBT Archives photo, EBTF.2025.25.76, Arnold Menke Collection
Left: The FEBT track crew constructing track north of Saltillo. – Al Gallo photo

era images, some dating back to the 1930s (EBTF.2024.31). We encourage you to explore this rewarding collection as well.

Both the 2024 and 2025 photographic collections donated by Arnold Menke were expertly packaged and labeled with titles and dates, clearly reflecting his care for the historic photographs and his appreciation of rail photography and EBT history. The archives thank Mr. Arnold Menke again for his stewardship and continued generosity. – *Amelia Kasdorf*



ROBERTSDALE REPORT

Your Robertsdale Museum had great visitation and sales while Pete and I were on vacation. I guess we need to go away more often!

The museum participated in Huntingdon County Free Museum Day on September 19. We have supported this effort since its inception even though our museum has always been free. As more museums participate; there is greater public awareness of all local museums.

The Society for Industrial Archeology visited on September 25 as part of their Fall Tour. About 50 guests arrived by bus from Altoona at 9 AM and were greeted by six hosts. The visitors were divided into four groups of 12-13 and sent in different directions. Everyone got a full walking tour and time to peruse the museum and gift shop. It's always rewarding to have a group which is focused and engaged! Several were interested in joining FEBT.
Our small native plant garden has been thriving. The aromatic asters seem to have skipped the sleep and creep stages of growth (see Hans Plugge's article in the September newsletter). They are leaping!

We will be open each Saturday in October from 10 AM to 5 PM. We will then be closed until November 28, when Christmas in Coal Country starts. Our hours will be 10 AM to 4 PM on 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19. Come early and do some Christmas shopping! – *Jane Clarke*



Above: The SIA group filled the bus they arrived on. – Kevin Nolish photo
Right: The flower garden continues to prosper through the summer. – Jane Clarke photo

ONLINE FEBT MEMBERSHIP IS BACK UP AND RUNNING

We are excited to announce that the membership function in the Company Store has been turned back on after being temporarily disabled for about six weeks. If your membership has expired or will expire soon, please log into your account at the FEBT Company Store and renew. Not sure of your renewal date? Your expiration date is printed on the top line of the mailing label for the *Timber Transfer* or fundraising letter. You can also find your current membership information on the Company Store membership page after logging into your account.

As we announced at the FEBT Reunion and in the August newsletter, there are some changes to our membership process. We have been working for almost a year to shift to a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool called Bloomerang. After a lot of hard work and testing, the database conversion is complete! The new database introduces automation to the membership process and integrates the administration of membership and donation data. Once the system is fully implemented, it will also track volunteer hours. Having all of this in one database system ensures that we have a single correct address, email, and phone number for each of you. It will allow us to send these newsletters from an up-to-the-minute roster, enter donations, and track volunteer hours all in one place. Rest assured that your personal data and financial information will remain secure. FEBT retains control of all data and it will never be sold or shared.

During the transition, we did not send the usual email and postcard reminders for membership renewal, and we held off on terminating lapsed memberships. We did this to keep the data as stable as possible during the transition. We sincerely appreciate the many members who have diligently kept their memberships current. For the subset whose memberships lapsed in 2026, we will begin sending reminders via email and postcards beginning in October. Please respond promptly to maintain your benefits and continue your essential support for our work. Renewal dates are at the end of each calendar quarter. If your membership has lapsed and you renew, your renewal date will remain the same month and day of the following year. Going forward, there will be a 30 day grace period for renewal before memberships terminate. For members joining or rejoining, the renewal date will be at the end of the upcoming calendar quarter.

We are excited about the streamlining and efficiency the new database offers. However, it is a learning process. We are still adapting and refining our processes to take full advantage of the new features and to clarify roles now that functions are more integrated. We appreciate your patience and understanding if glitches occur.

The membership levels and fees have not changed. To take advantage of new automation, we are shifting to primarily using online payments and communicating via email. If you do not use a computer or do not have an email address, you may still join or renew by mail. However, with increased postage costs and the burden of manual processing of checks and data, we intend to take full advantage of computer capabilities as much as possible.

Elaine Snider and Becky Reese are now the Membership Team, taking over from the venerable longtime Membership Guy, Pete Clarke. Please connect with them via email at membership@febt.org. The membership mailing address is:

Friends of East Broad Top
c/o Elaine Snider
PO Box 13
Marion, PA 17235.

Please use this contact information for all membership transactions or inquiries. Sending membership correspondence to Pete or the address for the Fundraising Treasurer (Cincinnati) or FEBT (Robertsdale), is likely to lead to significant delays and process glitches.
This is a very exciting improvement to FEBT's ability to manage the back end of the many moving parts of this vibrant volunteer organization! We are confident that the benefits of this change will far outweigh the inevitable temporary challenges that come with implementing it. – *Dave Bulman*

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE
The Friends of the East Broad Top membership is up to
2256

YOUNG EASTIES IN THE ARCHIVES

On September 12, the Young Easties had their fourth session of 2026 and spent the day completely immersed in the historic Archives. Five energetic teens experienced a full day of history and adventure. Archivist Julie Fether along with Sue Briggs, Amelia Kasdorf, and Deb Tucker planned and led an adventure that could only happen at the EBT.

The teens started the day by learning what the Archives were and what qualifies an item to enter the Archives. They toured the Archives and viewed a tiny glimpse of the massive trove that the Archives house. Soon, they found themselves divided into groups, leaving the archives and heading to buildings throughout the sprawling Shops Complex. They investigated the electrical shed and other second floor rooms looking for items that they could add to the Archives. With bins filled full of material, they headed back to the station and the Archives room to document the items collected in their journeys. They learned that archival documentation required dates, specifics, and measurements. In some cases, their new items could not be dated and that brought lots of debate and hypothesizing about an item's history. After lunch the teens finished their documentations and each teen presented a show and tell of their favorite items discovered. They were excited because each teen shared not one, but several items. Pictured are items that they had found in their Archives hunt that met with much discussion. After show and tell, the teens were challenged to demonstrate their knowledge of historic EBT archived photos through a slide show consisting of pictures from the entire EBT's history. General Manager Brad Esposito joined the activity, and all adults in attendance were impressed with the vast knowledge of the teens' ability to identify and explain many of the most challenging pictures. The day was ending, but not the adventure; several teens took the southbound 3:00 train to complete their full day.

The day was a busy one with a plethora of activity throughout the area including: a work weekend, Ragtime on the Rails, a Boy Scout tour, and events at the Rockhill Trolley Museum. Special thanks go out to Julie Fether, Sue Briggs, Amelia Kasdorf, Deb Tucker, Dave Bulman, Brad Esposito, Andrew Greene, and Doug Davenport for working together so the teens could have a successful day.

The next, and last, Young Easties session of 2026 is October 17. If you know of a teen that would be interested in all things FEBT and EBT please direct them towards https://febt.org/youngeasties/ or send an email to YouthVol@FEBT.org. – *Tim Schindele*





Above: Archivist Julie Fether shows the Young Easties the contents of the downstairs vault. – Tim Schindele photo
Below: Young Easties head back towards the station with their findings from their scavenger hunt. – Sue Briggs photo

THE EBT'S PUMPKIN PATCH NEEDS YOU!



The Fall Season is fast approaching, that means it's time for the Pumpkin Patch Express at the East Broad Top Railroad.

The EBT is looking for volunteers to help at Colgate Grove during the event during all of the following event days: October: 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, & 31

Those interested are encouraged to reach out to Justin Santichen - Director of Events and Visitor Experience at his email: jsantichen@eastbroadtop.com. All FEBT volunteers for public events need to have their PA Child Abuse Clearance documents on file with the FEBT Clearance Coordinator, who can be reached at clearance@febt.org. Help make the Pumpkin Patch Express a memorial experience for all and volunteer today! – *Al Gallo*

FEBT COMPANY STORE FEATURED ITEMS



The 2027 CALENDAR features images of the railroad's storied past from the East Broad Top Railroad's Archives and Special Collections, a joint-operating unit between the EBT Foundation and Friends of the East Broad Top(FEBT).

11x17 inches, 12 month calendar. Calendar text courtesy of the East Broad Top

$19.99

FEBT Key Ring



$5.99

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.

MINERS MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

With only four weeks left in its 2026 museum season, the nonprofit Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society Inc. outlined several important projects and activities during the society's September session, held recently in the Coal Miners Museum/Reality Theatre in Robertsdale. Heading the list of agenda matters was a lengthy discussion regarding the need for additional museum heating this winter as well as reliable income to help pay the growing cost of energy.

The society is seeking cost estimates for the installation of two additional mini-split heating systems necessary to heat both the interior of the museum and the upstairs balcony which houses the society's research library and exhibits. Two mini-split heating systems were installed a few years ago, but additional heating is necessary.

Following the seasonal closing of the museum on Saturday, October 31, the society board of directors will select a contractor to install the supplemental heating system with hopes of maintaining a more even distribution of heat, necessary for protecting some of the museum's more sensitive collection pieces during the winter. While installation of a more reliable heating system is important, society board members are also concerned about the growing cost of energy, specifically electricity to power the interior heating apparatus and ceiling fans.

Turning to other matters, the society members reviewed an America250 project the society had hoped to dedicate later this year. Plans for the erection of a special interpretive panel and metal coal miner figurine in front of the museum are a go-ahead; however, completion of the signage is expected to extend into 2027. The project, which will feature pictorial images of coal mining-related sites along Robertsdale's Main Street, was proposed this past summer and will proceed thanks to some assistance from FEBT. Additional information will be forthcoming as the project progresses.

In a review of September's museum activities, the annual Huntingdon County History & Heritage Roundtable's "Free Museum Day" drew over two dozen visitors to the Coal Miners Museum, which helped to promote the popular attraction. The ongoing Robertsdale Italian Cemetery restoration activities are nearing completion with plans to finish the project by the museum's seasonal reopening on Saturday, May 1, 2027.

Other updates centered around the society's ongoing research library activities overseen by co-librarians/researchers Dennis Fields and Carolyn Carrol. Heading the list is the collection of miners' obituaries, photos and other mine-related work information during the hey-day of King Coal on the Broad Top and mining operations in Somerset County, where many Broad Top area coal miners were employed during the 1970s and up to the present.



The Coal Miners Memorial Plaque. – Ron Morgan photo

Families of miners are encouraged to place the names of loved ones who worked in the mined on the Coal Miners Memorial plaques located inside the museum. The project serves as an important fundraiser for the society. Write the museum at:

PO Box 171
Robertsdale, PA 16674

Descendants may also telephone 814-907-1788 for details.

The board members also approved the society's shared cost (with the FEBT) for an advertisement about the FEBT and Coal Miners Museum which will reappear in the 2027 Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau's Visitors Guide. – *Ron Morgan*

ITEMS FOR SALE TO BENEFIT FEBT

Snyder Collection Auction

John Snyder's extensive model train collection will be sold through an on-line auction, and John generously specified that 40% of the proceeds from the auction will go to the FEBT. There are many EBT models among the collection, so we encourage you to look for items of interest. The second portion of his collection is now available to bid on at https://kleinfelters.hibid.com/catalog/780934/tues---oct--13--2026--specialty-train-online-only-sale.

Airstream Bambi for Sale

A longtime member is looking for a buyer of the pictured Airstream Bambi, with proceeds to be donated to FEBT. The Airstream is a 2024 Bambi, 16ft, rear double bed and dinette (that turns into another double bed). It features a shower with toilet, (never used, the plumbing is still winterized), factory solar, two propane tanks nearly full, AC/heating, Battleborn lithium batteries, and includes power cord, sewer hookup, potable water hose, tv, radio, backup camera, fridge, microwave, cook top and storage bins. It has only been used twice with less than 250 miles traveled and is located within 25 miles of Rockhill Furnace. Serious inquiries can contact Andy Van Scyoc at vanscyoc@gmail.com. – *Andy Van Scyoc*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
October 3	EBT	Broad Top Brews Train
October 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31	EBT	Pumpkin Patch Express
October 10	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
October 17, 18, 19	FEBT	FEBT Work Session
October 17	FEBT	Young Easties Work Session
November 27, 28, 29	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country
December 4-6, 11-13, 18-20	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country

Hosts:			
	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

We are making great progress on restoration projects in Rockhill and other locations, but there is much more to be done. We have a dedicated group of volunteers, but we can always use more to help with our many projects. If you'd like to help with these and future projects, please consider joining us!

The next Rockhill Restoration Work Weekend will take place Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, October 17, 18, and 19. The remainder of the 2026 Rockhill schedule is on our website at https://febt.org/volunteer/. Please consider coming out to help us continue to preserve and restore the EBT. 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*

FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Every Saturday, through October 31, 2026.

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 2,200 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.

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.



FEBT Work Week participants enjoy a trolley ride courtesy of the Rockhill Trolley Museum. – Al Gallo photo