Friends of the East Broad Top
www.febt.org

NEWSLETTER

Preservation Restoration Interpretation

Volume 7, Issue 11 **November 2026**



The combined FEBT and EBTF track construct the south switch of the Pogue siding as part of the on-going March to Saltillo. Your donations have provided the funding for this work, and your volunteer efforts have the continued progress to restore the EBT main line southward. – Gene Tucker photo

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FEBT Volunteers gather in front of No. 16 prior to the Sunday work session. – Al Gallo photo

MAKIN' TRACKS IN POGUE

FEBT's track gang spent nearly all of this month in Pogue, building track southward from the grade crossing which is adjacent to the station. Our month began, however, with some maintenance on the main south of Colgate Grove.

Pickin' Up Dead Ties

Though we spend most of our time assisting the railroad's two full-time staff members with new track construction, there are significant times when it's helpful for us to assist them with maintenance items. Some of these items fall into the category of being "chores." Such was the case on Tuesday, October 6, when we assisted in picking up old ties that had been replaced the month before in the stretch of track immediately south of Colgate Grove. The day's work train consisted of the No. 19 diesel, a flatcar, and a rider car for the crew. Our job was to pick up small pieces of leftover ties (by hand), while a mini excavator followed along picking up the old ties that were mostly intact. By the middle of the day, the flat car was piled high with dead wood. Once we'd returned to the Rockhill Yard, we assisted in cleaning off the flat of all that unwanted stuff.

Puttin' Down New Ones

Track construction at Pogue got underway in the afternoon of Tuesday, October 6. Our work began at a point about 400 feet south of the Pogue grade crossing. Over the succeeding three weeks, nearly 1000 feet of new track on the main has been put together. All of this work has been fully gauged and spiked.

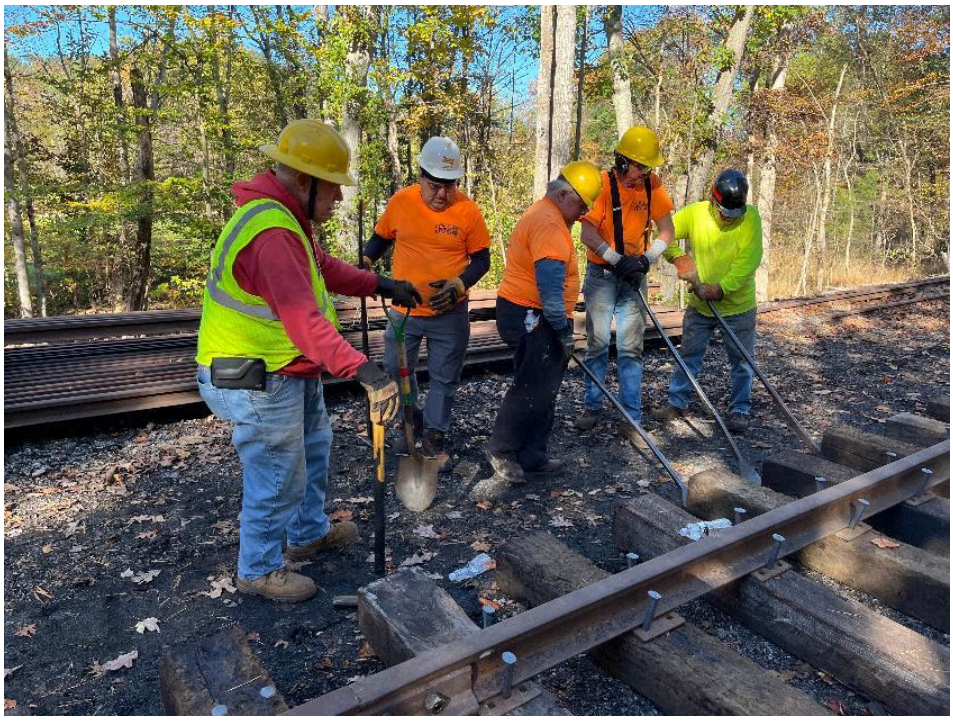
During the week of October 15, we began construction of the switch which will eventually connect the main to the passing siding on the west side of the ROW. The switch's points lie at a point 1,450 feet south of the grade crossing. Much of the switch is now in place, and we expect it to be finished during the week of October 26.

Ties, rail, and assorted Other Track Material (OTM) have been distributed along the ROW where the passing siding will be constructed. This sort of preparatory work by the full-time personnel is their "stock in trade". Their behind-the-scenes work on days that FEBT personnel aren't on site makes possible the significant strides that take place when the forces of both the railroad and the FEBT come together.

Imagine this: Once we're through constructing the passing siding, the combined crews of the full-time



Above: The FEBT track crew picks up the remnants of replaced ties on October 6. – Gene Tucker photo
Below: Gene Tucker, Wayne Cass, Jon Widmeyer, Jack Fornadley, and Daniel Lane nip ties south of Pogue. – Todd Johnson photo





The track crew aligns the main line south of Pogue on October 22. – Gene Tucker photo

personnel and the FEBT personnel will have constructed about 2,900 feet of new trackage in Pogue (1,450 feet in the main, and 1,450 feet in the passing siding). Now, add the 3,500 feet already constructed in Saltillo, and I think we can safely say that a very productive year, 2026, will have passed into history.

Making All This Possible: Our People

Throughout the month of October, we've been blessed to have good-sized work crews. We've also been blessed to have a wonderful string of beautiful fall days in which to work. Twenty-four of our number supported our efforts in this reporting period. We are always delighted to welcome a new member of the gang, and, this month, Andrew Williams joined in the work, making a significant contribution with his experience and energy. Welcome, Andrew!

Making All This Possible: Contributions (from people like you)

Just about everything we're using to reconstruct the railroad has had to have been purchased to allow the work to proceed. Ties, spikes, bolts, joint bars (on occasion), assorted other "stuff", and – yes, on occasion – some rail, all of this is new-to-the-railroad.

FEBT's fundraising efforts have been successfully generating significant amounts of money in recent years. Goals for fundraising have been met, and then exceeded, by large margins. The generosity of thousands of interested persons who want to see the EBT come back to life, and who've devoted their financial efforts to making this venture a reality, has enabled the FEBT to be a major underwriter of much of the track materials we are managing to assemble. To each and every one of you who've contributed, we of the track gang community are immensely and deeply thankful. – *Gene Tucker*

HAPPY FEBT-GIVING!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the EBT Archives and Special Collections is thankful for the Friends of the East Broad Top's enduring support. For November's exhibit, we are featuring all the 2025 and 2026 Friends' collections that have not yet been released publicly. Thank you for entrusting us with your collections, and for your support, both of which make the Archives possible!

Highlights from the 2026 FEBT collections include black-and-white photographic prints from the 1940s through the early 1960s donated by David Homer and the National Railway



"Standard Gauge Cars on Narrow Gauge Trucks, Three Springs Depot." July 19, 1952. – EBT Archives photo, FEBT.2025.11.3, Robert L. Long Collection, Robert L. Long photo



"Saltillo, Spring 1982." 1982. – EBT Archives photo, FEBT.2026.9.2, Deane Mellander collection, Rick Shoup photo

Historical Society, West Jersey Chapter (FEBT. 2026.10), a negative of young C.R. Wilburn donated by David Johnson (FEBT.2026.13), and a never-before-seen (at least by FEBT Museum volunteers and the Archives) photograph of miners gathered around the boiler house near Mine #5 in Robertsdale from an anonymous donor (FEBT.2026.27), as well as postcards, tourist-era photographs, and many images of the FEBT restoration efforts over the years. Click on "What's New" from the home page of our Digital Catalog to see the exhibit.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we also want to thank the Archives' super volunteers: Sue Briggs, Deb Tucker, Dr. Vagel Keller, Lee Rainey, Scarlett Wirt, and Lawrence Biemiller. Sue Briggs, granddaughter of brakeman and conductor Stephen Painter, volunteers weekly to sort collections, inventory archival material, and help set up and host archive events at the Orbisonia Passenger Station. Deb Tucker volunteers by transcribing oral history interviews of coal miners and EBT employees, helping further a grant-funded oral history digitization project. Dr. Keller volunteers remotely, refining the Archive's digital catalog search terms and helping with metadata tagging to make the collections more user-friendly. Last but certainly not least, Scarlett Wirt and Dr. Lee Rainey, volunteers since the Archive's founding, have had an immeasurable impact on the Archive's function and success — thank you.

Thank you again to the Friends of East Broad Top and to our super volunteers for the enduring support. We wish you and your families a lovely and safe Thanksgiving! – *Amelia Kasdorf*

FALL ACTIVITY UP ON BROAD TOP MOUNTAIN

In late September and October, the weather turned cooler and the leaves started to show color and our attendance grew. The museum's year is almost, but not quite, over. Like the EBT, it will be closed until late November (when the EBT's "Christmas in Coal Country" event starts). The leaves will be down, so you can see well, and you will not need to worry about it being too hot. Railbike season will have ended, but it really is one of the best times to visit and take a walking tour. Oh, and pick up a long sleeve shirt and a warm knit hat to keep warm this winter in the museum's gift shop.



The fall scenery in Robertsdale is an experience you don't want to miss. – Rob Willhite photo



Above: The Saltillo Station ticket window had been on display in the FEBT Museum. Going forward, you'll have to look for this item as it's installed in the reconstructed Saltillo Station. – Rob Willhite photo
Right: There's lots of history in Robertsdale. Some of it is frightening! – Jane Clarke photo

On October 17, a small but glorious thing happened. The Saltillo Station ticket window arch that has been saved by FEBT was removed from the museum and taken back to the (new) Saltillo station. It will be re-installed there. Job well done.

Now is also the right time to think about joining the museum host crew for next year. Life happens, and each year some of our hosts find that for one reason or another (but never because they don't want to!) they can't host. We need you to help keep our pool of hosts deep. If you are considering it, why not come and spend a day as an apprentice? What a wonderful way to see what it is that we do, to learn all the ways we supply the information hosts need, and to see what an enjoyable day our hosts have. Historically our attendance is light on those November & December days, so we'd have plenty of time to "show you the ropes". If you are interested, please contact me (Pete). My email is febt.pete@gmail.com. – *Pete Clarke*



YOUNG EASTIES LEARN ABOUT ROLLING STOCK

Saturday, October 17, was another fantastic Young Easties session. The nine teen attendees (and a few parent chaperones) got to experience the details of modern maintenance on a historic working railroad. Ron Freitag and Matt Hauser planned interesting hands-on activities. They planned on working on opening up the journal boxes on Flatcar 107, cleaning, and repacking bearings. Car 107 had different ideas. After opening both journal boxes on the south end of the car, it was determined that stubborn parts were thwarting their best-laid plans. This fortuitously led to a shifting of the plan. Work was moved to Flatcar 123.

Ron Freitag explains freight car anatomy to the Young Easties. – Tim Schindele photo



On Flatcar 123, the south end journal was opened and the kids quickly discovered that they were in for a treat. The best theory is that this journal box and material inside hadn't been cleared or cleaned in possibly 70 years, since the 1950's. The box was filled with original fabric threads and oil from when Eisenhower was President. The kids worked in teams to remove the packed-in material. They removed pounds sludge and couldn't believe that the job continued to be far from done. Each time they removed a fistful of oily material, more seemed to appear. It was magic. They laughed as they traded places and let others try their luck at reaching the end. It really helped to break the ice and put everyone at ease. Eventually their effort was rewarded, and the material was removed (filling half of a 5-gallon bucket). The required bearing items could be located, removed, and examined. A small contingent took the material to be cleaned while the others got to experience inspecting a car from the underside, on their backs.





After lunch, the bearing project was quickly completed and the kids were treated to tours that few ever see; they got a tour of the original brake shop. Ron went through all of the tools, equipment, and nuances that filled this tiny room. They were fascinated by the equipment and his stories. The room was a time capsule, complete with wear marks and original 1942 and 1956 calendars. Next, they moved to the new brake shop and could see how things have changed, but still remained the same. Again, Ron clearly explained all the intricacies and related great stories. Later they went with Matt into the roundhouse. Standing next to No. 17, they peppered Matt with questions of all sorts. Questions about rivets, superheating, wheel diameters, dry steam, and others flew through the air. Matt easily answered them all and was ready to jump down any rabbit hole that the kids wanted to explore.

A big thank you goes out to Ron and Matt. Not only were they a wealth of knowledge, but they both had a comfortable way of interacting with the kids. They encouraged questions and shared thoughts in a style that made the kids feel comfortable, encouraged more questions, and kept them interested.

It was the last Young Easties this year, and a very successful one.

Top: The Young Easties receive instruction on air brake systems. – Tim Schindele photo
Left: Ron Freitag shows the Young Easties the inside of a stema engine boiler. – Tim Schindele photo

As the 2026 sessions end, a thank you is sent out to all that made the Young Easties possible. This wouldn't be possible without the help and guidance from the following people; Dave Bulman, Doug Davenport, Dave Domitrovich, Brad Esposito, Julie Fether, Al Gallo, Andrew Greene, Amelia Kasdorf, Doug Linebaugh, Andy Van Scyoc, Deb Tucker, Gene Tucker, the parents of the teens, and countless others. The Young Easties continues to be a great opportunity to get teens interested in the railroad, working with their hands, and exploring new ideas. Thank you and we are looking forward to a successful Young Easties in 2027. – *Tim Schindele*

OCTOBER CAMPAIGN-FUNDED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The March to Saltillo made exciting progress this month, with track construction proceeding 1300 feet south of Pogue station (see Gene's article on Page 3 for more details). This work is made possible by the materials purchased with 2026 campaign donations and the clearing and grading of the ROW funded by the 2025 campaign.

Saltillo Station also continued to make excellent progress. FEBT volunteers continued to install campaign-funded interior materials, with the ticket window partition wall framed and partially sided. Additional historic items that will be reinstalled have been moved to the station for trial fitting, including the ticket window and the agent's office door and the original restroom door. On the outside of the building, final grading and landscaping has been completed, with grass planted and the gravel parking lot completed.

Rockhill Storehouse 2 restoration progressed with the rebuilding and installation of the window frames and upper door using materials purchased by the 2026 campaign. This allowed the installation of the restored windows. Repairs to Boxcar 178's roof made great progress, again with materials provided by the 2026 campaign.

The EBT Archives October digital exhibit featured a recently donated collection (EBTF.2025.25) by avid rail photography collector Arnold Menke. Menke is one of the generous donors whose contributions have enriched the archives and are now accessible to the public. Menke's photographic collection features print photographs, black-and-white negatives, and color positives of scenes from the Common Carrier and Kovalchick Tourist Railroad eras. Also, this October, students from the Rail Transportation Engineering Program at Penn State Altoona spent a day at the EBT, starting with a tour of the archives and the Orbisonia Passenger Station vaults. Five collections were accepted for the EBT Foundation, including medium format slides of the EBT, 2010







Top: Newly constructed track stretches south from Pogue. – Al Gallo photo
Above: Saltillo Station ticket window partition wall and door openings for original doors. – Dave Bulman photo
Right: Storehouse 2 with restored windows and door installed. – Dave Bulman photo



Fall Spectacular digital images and video, and Saltillo Station early Common Carrier way bills. The EBT Archives activities are funded by the FEBT campaign.

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

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. *– Dave Bulman and Julie Fether*

EBT View South Orbisonia, 1958. – EBT Archives photo, EBTF.2025.25.76, Arnold Menke Collection

OCTOBER FUNDRAISING UPDATE

2026 Campaign Final Results

We have now completed the 2026 FEBT Campaign. The final total on September 30 was $568,416, setting another campaign record. The campaign funds allowed us to accelerate the March to Saltillo, support completion of the Saltillo Station, continue building and equipment restoration efforts in Rockhill, fund the EBT Archives, and support the restoration of locomotive No. 15. Thank you for your generous support!

2027 FEBT Campaign Marches Ahead

Thanks to our very generous donors, we are off to a great start on the 2027 Campaign. October donations totaled $65,698 in 171 donations, our best first month ever. Thank you! We cannot do this without you. Please know that FEBT appreciates your help to support its goals of restoring, preserving, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad. Ten dollars or ten thousand dollars, every dollar counts.

2026 Campaign Goal:
$350,000
Late September Donations:
$12,697
Campaign Total:
$568,416 – 158.8%

2027 Campaign Goal:
$375,000
October Donations:
$65,698
Campaign Total:
$65,698 – 17.5%

October donors:*

John M. Acken	Joan Adams	Stephen Adik	Fr. Alexei Alexiev
Joel R. Altland	Richard Anderson	Harry L. Anderson Jr.	Beth Ann Andrews
Wayne Baldwin	Roberta Ballard	William H. Barnes	Donald G. Bayer
Cliff Beaver	Charles S. Bender II	Stephen Benkovitz	Robert Benkowits
Jerry Bertoldo	Dennis Best	Kendrick Bisset	Ralph Robert Bitzer
Douglas O. Blount	Patrick Boab	Casper Bocklage	Richard Boone
Alexander Bowser	Charles Bradley	Frederick Breimyer	James Brickley
Kenneth Brink	Tom Brown	Bucktail Cider Company LLC	
David & Gail Buczkowski		Domenick Buttiglieri	Robert G. Caccese
David H. Capp	Ricky Gene Case	Wayne & Jane Cass	Steven M. Chorkawy
Pete Claussen	David Clinton	Keith Clouse	Jay M. Cohen
W. George Cook	John M. Cormany	Robert Courneya	Samuel Cressler
Carson W. (Pete) Culp Jr.		David Currier	Daniel E. Schmidt
Dave & Karen Bulman	Ronald Davis	Jerry Deily	Larry & Joyce DeYoung
William Diamond	James Dimond	Harry Doolittle	James Dufour
Bruce Duncan	George J. Dvorak II	Frank Dziama	Wade C. Eagleton
William Eckman	Tom Eikerenkotter	Larry Endler	Robert Etchberger
Eli Ethridge	Carl Fabrizio	Bernd Fanghanel	Gary Faulkner
David Feldmaier	Douglas E. Fink	William Fitch	Timothy Frade
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Norman P. Gentieu Jr.	Luther Gette	Robert Gilbert	Scot Gill
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Eugene Graber	Stephen Grado	Thomas Haag	Frank J. Harker
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Allen W. Landis	Idamarie Laquatra	Russell Lassuy	Lionel E. Lavoie
Don Lee	John J. LePrince	Robert M. Leslie	Byron L. Locke
Albert Louer	Robert W. Lykens	Tom Lyne	Marian Lynn
Robbin R. Mac Donald	William Mackin	Douglas Maddox	John Maloney
Ken McDonough	David M. McMahon	Tom McMaster	Jesse Meeker
Christine Milner	Jim Missenda	Tim Moffat	Wayland Moore
Wick Moorman	Philip Moreira	Hugh Mose	William Mosteller
Dee Murphy	James A Murray	Randy A. Musser	Robert & Judy Myrick
Roy Nelson	W. R. Newton	Charles F. Ober III	John D. Oehler
Michael Olson	James Overholser	Sam Painter	Mark Paschetag
James T. Patterson	Don Pattison	Bradford Paulson	James Perry
Lewis Peterman	David Phillips	Richard Poletto	James Pontz
Eric C. Powell	Jonathan Proctor	Stephen Puzio	John Quinn
Carolyn Reddig	Virginia Regi	Wade Rice	William Ringler
David Rink	Charles Roberts	Tim Robinson	Edward Rogers, Jr
Michael E. Romansky	Randy Ross	Anthony Sallo III	Kevin Scanlon
Linda & Bill Schafer	Carl Schandelmeier	Jeremy Schwartz	Alan Senft
James W. Seville	Tom Shiels	Roger L. Shimon	Gary Shrey
Christopher Simone	Robert Smith	Scott R. Snell	Robert Soars
Carl Soechtig	Ann R. Sparrough	John Spychalski	Earle A. Stalfort
Jim Stapleton	Lee Stauffer	Evan E. Stauffer, Jr.	Gilbert L. Sterner
Robert Still	Randy Stone	Dennis R. Straub	Woodruff & Jennifer Sutton
John R. Sweet	Marlin R. Taylor	Daniel Thomas	Peter Thornton
Christopher Tompkins	David G. Trussell	John Tumolo	Marc Tupper
Michael & Barbara Wahler		Bob Wallace	Rand Warner

David Watts	Carleton W. Weber	Dan Wesoloski	Lee Wheeler
Bruce Wilson	Brian Wolfe	Jeanette Wolff Lustig	David Wood
Terrill L. Woolsey	Donald A. Woshlo, Jr.	Scott L. Wyrick	Joseph & Mary Yakubisin
John S. Yoder	John D. Zidik	Ron Ziegler	Bob Zimmerman

In memory of William L. Maner III:
Cynthia Maner

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

In memory of Rayfield Dietrich:
Edwin J. Wright

* - All donors listed represent donations received between September 22, 2026 and October 21, 2026. Donations received after October 21 will be reported in the December 2026 issue due to press time constraints. Contributors listed include donors to both the 2026 and 2027 Campaigns.

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*

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.

OCTOBER ROCKHILL WORK SESSION RECAP

The extended October work weekend was held from Saturday, October 17 through Monday, October 19. We had 35 volunteers on Saturday including nine Young Easties, 23 on Sunday, and 22 on Monday. Crews were busy in Rockhill, Saltillo, and south of Pogue. We had three nice fall days with cool mornings and warm afternoons, which allowed great progress to be made on all projects.

The boxcar crew was busy rebuilding the roof on Boxcar 178 and doing additional painting on 180.

The windows crew installed restored sashes in the bus garage and continued restoration of other sashes in the Carpentry Shop.

The Storehouse crew rebuilt the window and door frames from the second floor of Storehouse 2, followed by painting and installation. The window sashes, previously restored by the window crew, were then installed in all four windows. The second floor door was rebuilt and reinstalled with its original hardware. The team was also able to repaint the east wall of the Boiler House coal bin that had been prepped during the September work week.

The Young Easties had a great session on Saturday with the EBT Mechanical Department (see Tim's article on Page 6 for more details).

The Saltillo Station crew was focused on constructing the ticket window partition wall. This included installation of replica chamfered exposed studs, framing for the ticket window, beadboard siding installation on the waiting room side of the wall, and building the door jambs for the original office and restroom







Top: Dave Ebright installs new roof materials on Boxcar 178. – Al Gallo photo
Center: George and Linda Dvorak restore a window in the Carpentry Shop. – Al Gallo photo
Bottom: Craig Confair and Mark Reese assemble the Saltillo Station ticket window wall. – Al Gallo photo

doors. Back in Rockhill, boards were planed and cut to size to be used to reconstruct the partition wall lattice.

The track crew was out in force on Monday building track south of Pogue (see Gene's article on Page 3 for full details).

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*



Jack Fornadley uses the spiking gun to set ties as part of the March to Saltillo. – Wayne Cass photo

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

The following members volunteered from September 22 to October 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	Stacey Batovsky	Steve Behe	Lawrence Biemiller
John Bowie	Sue Briggs	Alexander Brown	Dave Bulman
Karen Bulman	Roy Burnham	Wayne Cass	Jane Clarke
Pete Clarke	Chris Coleman	Craig Confair	Chris Connacher
Alex Cook	Doug Davenport	Ralph Davidson	George Dvorak
Linda Dvorak	Dave Ebright	Ron Elliot	Jack Fornadley
Larry Fuchs	Al Gallo	David Getty	Lance Gilliland
Bobby Goldby	Dave Hart	Charlie High	Joyce Hoffman
Steve Jackson	Steve Jacobs	Todd Johnson	Tom Jordan
Vagel Keller	Brent Kendrick	Butch Kerchenske	Greg Kifer
Eric Knepp	Ed Kompare	Daniel Lane	Doug Linebaugh
Matthew Malkiewicz	Margie McFalls	Ray McFalls	Curtis Miller
Bob Morningstar	Bill Mosteller	Kevin Nolish	Sam Painter
Tom Perman	Dave Phillips	Hans Plugge	Matt Preston
John Quinn	Jon Radder	Becky Reese	Mark Reese
Bill Reynolds	Tim Schindele	Elaine Snider	Blair Stewart
Roger Stier	Jim Troup	Deb Tucker	Gene Tucker
Dick Ullery	Andy Van Scyoc	Mike Wahler	Bill Wheeler
John Widmeyer	Norm Wilcox	Rob Willhite	Andrew Williams
Scarlett Wirt	Jim Witmer	Brian Wolfe	Connie Wolfe
Terry Wolfe	Charlie Wootton		

COAL MINERS MUSEUM FALL HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

Fall is in the air as Mother Nature paints a multi-colored portrait of natural beauty and the opportunity for Broad Top area residents and visitors to enjoy a variety of year-end events leading to Halloween. One of those pre-Halloween celebrations was relished by dozens of visitors to the nonprofit Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum in Robertsdale in late October.

Highlighting the Coal Miners Museum activities were the annual apple dumpling sales and a group tour featuring two dozen members of the Allegheny Antique Auto Club (Huntingdon Chapter) of America. The 60 to 70-member organization, which enjoys antique auto displays, special tours and other local and regional activities, included in this year's fall foliage trek stops at several historic sites around the tri-county Broad Top area including:

- Captain Phillips Rangers Memorial, north of Saxton in Liberty Township
- Saxton, the one-time headquarters of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad (H&BT)
- H&BT Historic Site at Dudley and sections of the former H&BT's Shoup's Run branch
- Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum in Robertsdale
- Thomas White Memorial at Evans Cemetery, at White Church near Six Mile Run
- Riddlesburg Coke Ovens and the H&BT Rail-Trail
- Motor ride around the Keystone Foundry at Hopewell, which is currently closed

In addition to the museum tour by the antique auto club members, the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society welcomed visitors Saturday, including folks interested in placing family names of coal miners on the Coal Miners Memorial Plaques. The visitors also met with museum research librarians Denny Fields and Carolyn Carroll to gather information about their family members who once worked in the Broad Top area coal mines.

Another highlight of the fall foliage event was the always-popular apple dumpling sales, a fundraising event of former Wood resident, Laura Morningstar, who now resides in Bedford. Morningstar's father, the late William "Billy" Hess was employed in numerous Broad Top area coal mines, including Robertsdale's famed No. 5 "Slope Mine." Laura prepares the delicious apple dumplings at her Bedford home and transported them to the Coal Miners Museum early Saturday, where people were already lined up to purchase the fall foliage favorite.

It takes a day to prepare the apple dumpling treats relying on her mother's (the former Bertha Watkins Hess) recipe, Laura explained. "I was only a 14-year-old teenager living in Wood, when my mother shared the recipe with me," Morningstar noted. "I remember that my mother prepared the apple dumplings on a wood/coal stove in the family kitchen."



Laura Morningstar sells apple dumplings to support the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum. – Ron Morgan photo

Morningstar started making the apple dumplings for local organizations as a fundraiser just after 9/11. Previously, her treats were a popular attraction at the former fall foliage Robertsdale Heritage and Community Days, and later moved the sales to the community's Reality Theatre, home of the Coal Miners Museum. This year, Morningstar prepared 188 apple dumplings which were all sold within a few hours, with many folks ordering them in advance. She donated all the proceeds to the Coal Miners Museum, totaling $750. A graduate of Tussey Mountain High School, Morningstar is a dedicated fan of Broad Top area history with a special emphasis on the East Broad Top Railroad and the era of coal mining in Robertsdale and Wood. – *Ron Morgan*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
November 7, 8	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 27, 28, 29	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country
December 4-6, 11-13, 18-20	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country
December 5, 12	RTM	Santa's Trolley

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 and Sunday, November 7 and 8. This event will conclude the 2026 Rockhill restoration schedule. Keep an eye on our website at https://febt.org/volunteer/ for the release of the 2027 schedule. 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*

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE
The Friends of the East Broad Top membership is up to
2297

FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Every Saturday of Christmas in Coal Country
November 28, December 5, 12, 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 2,200 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.



Bill Adams and Bobby Goldby install restored window sashes in the bus garage. – Al Gallo photo.