



NEWSLETTER

March 2013

Special contest announced for 2013 reunion

This year's FEBT fund-raising thank-you gift is the superb painting *Action at the Company Square*, a Robertsdale scene especially created for Friends of the East Broad Top by noted railroad artist Peter A. Lerro, Jr. This accurate and attractive work of art is causing such a buzz that we've decided to honor it by adding a special contest category to the 2013 Fall Reunion contests, FEBT president R. Lee Rainey informs us.

The contest is for the best mini-diorama based on the painting. We're defining this as a scene that includes at least three adjacent elements depicted in a portion of Peter's artwork. For example, you might choose to include on your mini-diorama the depot, the adjacent automobile, and the scale track, as shown in Peter's scene. Your diorama can be any size (though we are thinking most won't be more than a square foot or two), any scale, but the key point is that you cannot enter just a building. The buildings or cars or locomotive must be a threesome, and in a little setting that mirrors the painting. To stimulate entries, a director who wishes to remain anonymous is underwriting a \$50.00 prize to be awarded to the winner of the 2013 special contest. Judging will be by popular vote in the usual FEBT fashion.

2013 Rockhill Furnace Work Schedule

January 12-13	June 22-23
February 16-17	July 13-14
March 16-17	August 3-4
April 20-21	August 24-25
May 18-19	September 21-22
June 1-2	November 9-10

Tentative work week May 20-24. For more information contact **Lee Rainey** at (814) 867-7878 (home), (814) 404-3968 (cell), or leerainey@aol.com

2013 Robertsdale Work Schedule

January 19-20*	July 6-7
February 23-24*	July 20-21
March 16-17*	August 3-4
April 13-14	August 17-18
May 4-5	September 7-8
May 18-19	September 21-22
June 1-2	October 5-6
June 15-16	November 2-3

*Tentative dates subject to change at short notice due to weather or availability of volunteers. For more information contact **Hank Inman** at (804) 353-0817 or **Vagel Keller** at (412) 441-7881 or vckeller@comcast.net

For those who plan ahead, be aware that work is already underway on our 2014 painting, which will feature a scene in Rockhill Furnace. That might be a reason to finish up those models of the East Broad Top Railroad's shop buildings!

FEBT event coordinator Andrew H. Van Scyoc notes that the 31st annual Fall Reunion is scheduled for the 2013 Columbus Day holiday weekend, October 11-13. Building on last year's success, we again plan to hold our 2013 event in the Rockhill Elementary School and the FEBT Museum buildings in Robertsdale. While new activities are being developed, many stalwart features, such as the model and photo contests, numerous clinics and presentations, fundraising auction, and museum open house, will remain. Questions, comments, and suggestions may be directed to Andy Van Scyoc at vanscyoc@gmail.com or (301) 943-6255.

Make your plans now to join us in October!

Despite the obvious challenges, approximately 85 FEBT members and their guests participated in our 2012 Fall Reunion. Among the many activities, the unveiling of the 2013 fund-raising painting *Action at the Company Square*, the "re-dedication" of the East Broad Top Railroad's blacksmith shop, and a special EBT train to Colgate Grove and back to thank FEBT members for their support are perhaps the most notable. The sale of donated items generated more than \$1,000.00 for the FEBT restoration program.

More about last year's Fall Reunion, together with coverage of our 2012 contests, tours of restoration work, and activities at the FEBT Museum, will appear in *The Timber Transfer*.

James G. Mersereau

We were saddened to learn of the death of James G. Mersereau last fall. Jim was a longtime member and generous supporter of Friends of the East Broad Top.

Jim played an instrumental role in the creation of the first major fund-raising campaign, which we launched in 2001 to raise funds to support our restoration program. Jim owned *Mount Union Train*, the Ted Rose painting we used to encourage donations during the first year of that campaign. Jim not only allowed us to borrow the original painting to produce our art reproductions of *Mount Union Train*, he provided a substantial donation to help us begin the campaign.

In 2010 Jim and his wife Shirley donated to FEBT his large collection of O-scale models of East Broad Top Railroad locomotives, rolling stock, and buildings. We sold the last of these models at the end of 2012, realizing approximately \$19,000.00 altogether.

I know all FEBT members join me in expressing our condolences to Jim Mersereau's family and many friends.

—Henry F. Inman, FEBT chief financial officer

Nominating committee seeks candidates

The nominating committee for the 2013 election asks FEBT members to submit the names of potential candidates for nomination and election as directors of Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. In the upcoming election, to be held in April and May, FEBT members will elect four of the nine members of the board of directors. The seats up for election are now occupied by William L. Adams, Henry F. Inman, Vagel C. Keller, and Andrew H. Van Scyoc. In February Vagel informed the board that he did not intend to seek reelection, instead retiring as a director when his current term expires. The five remaining board positions not up for election during the current election cycle will be the subject of our 2014 election; Lawrence Biemiller, Nancy E. Jacqmin, David A. Phillips, R. Lee Rainey, and Wade N. Woodcock now hold these seats.

FEBT directors are responsible for the management and governance of Friends of the East Broad Top. The president, vice president, and secretary are elected annually by the Board from among its members. Among other duties, directors maintain oversight over the work of all FEBT officers and staff volunteers; develop and enforce policy guidelines for all operations and activities; direct the preparation and submission of reports required by applicable federal and state laws and regulations; set fund-raising goals and support fund-raising efforts; and determine budget priorities and spending limits.

Any individual FEBT member in good standing is eligible for nomination. The chairman and members of the nominating committee select the final slate of nominees presented to FEBT members for election as directors. (Individual members include regular, family, sustaining, associate, life, and student/senior FEBT members.) However, a member in good standing may also qualify for automatic inclusion in the final slate of nominees if he or she submits a nominating petition signed by 100 FEBT members in good standing.

The chairman of the nominating committee for the 2013 election cycle is David A. Phillips, who joined the board in 2012. Now retired, Dave is an active member of our combine no. 14 restoration crew and works with the FEBT Company Store. He resides in central New Jersey. James A. Bacon and Richard M. Ullery are the other members of the nominating committee. Jim has participated in our restoration efforts at Robertsdale and Rockhill Furnace for many years; at Rockhill Furnace he has spearheaded our work on the boiler shop, foundry, and blacksmith shop. Jim works as a machinery technician in the plastics industry; he lives in Williamsfield, Ohio. Dick is the manager of the FEBT Company Store and is an active volunteer in our Rockhill Furnace restoration efforts. He a retired corporate executive from a machine designer and manufacturer serving the steel industry; he lives near Pittsburgh.

The names of potential nominees and nominating petitions should be submitted to

**David A. Phillips, Chairman
FEBT Nominating Committee
224 Ivy Road
Beverly NJ 08010
Telephone: (609) 386-0503
E-mail: daphilli@comcast.net**

The deadline for submitting names of potential candidates for nomination or nominating petitions to the nominating committee is April 10, 2013.

Nomination and election of directors are governed by the corporate bylaws of Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. FEBT members may obtain copies of the FEBT articles of incorporation and bylaws by contacting Dave Phillips.

Getting *The Timber Transfer* back on track

Publication of the Friends of the East Broad Top magazine, *The Timber Transfer*, unfortunately ground to a halt in 2012. In addition to delays caused by added responsibilities at work, editor Brad Esposito suffered a fatal computer meltdown near the end of the year. Brad had been using his own software to produce *The Timber Transfer*, and we discovered that the Adobe publication software we purchased for previous editor Kevin C. Strong was too old to update and install on Brad's new system. FEBT obtained new software in February, and we are working to get publication of *The Timber Transfer* back on track.

As FEBT vice president Lawrence Biemiller reports, at its February meeting the board of directors beefed up the editorial staff of the *The Timber Transfer*, with the aim of getting publication back on a regular schedule. Dennis R. Straub, a long-time FEBT volunteer and former director, will join the staff as managing editor. He plans to help round up articles for Brad Esposito. Lawrence himself will also help out as copy editor, joining current volunteers Vagel C. Keller and Deane E. Melander. If you are interested in contributing an article, photo-

graphs, or ideas, you can reach Dennis at denebntut@aol.com, Brad at timber_transfer@comcast.net, and Lawrence at biemiller@mac.com.

Lawrence also observes that FEBT may be able to save a fair amount of money and time by e-mailing the *FEBT Newsletter* to members, rather than sending 900-plus copies through the U.S. Postal Service. That's money and time that we could devote to projects at the core of our mission. But not all of our members use e-mail, and many who do have not provided an e-mail address to Peter A. Clarke, our membership coordinator. Pete has e-mail addresses for just over 400 members. With your cooperation we could explore e-mailing the newsletter, starting later this year.

If you'd like to receive the newsletter by e-mail and you haven't given Pete an e-mail address, please send it to him at febt@aol.com. If he does have your e-mail address but you want to continue to receive the newsletter by mail, please let him know and we'll continue to send you a paper copy. If you have changed your e-mail address since giving it to us, please let Pete know what your current address is.

News from the FEBT Company Store

Big news from the FEBT Company Store! We have completely redesigned our web site to make your shopping experience easier and more convenient. You can access the Company Store through the FEBT web site, or directly at www.febt.org/Costore/. The Company Store can now accept payments by credit card, PayPal, money order, or personal check, and it's easy to order. Just visit the Company Store web site and browse through all the items we currently offer. Periodically we will feature new and sales items. All you need to do is "point and click" and the rest is done for you—whether you're buying one item or multiple items! You put your items in a shopping cart, and when you are ready to check out the order total, shipping, Pennsylvania sales tax (if applicable), and FEBT discount are all calculated automatically. After confirming order details, our order is forwarded automatically to the Company Store. It's the easy way to shop the Company Store. However, you can still place your orders by mail using the 2013 Company Store paper catalog.

In other news, the Blackstone Models HOn3 East Broad Top Railroad three-bay steel hopper cars have been selling well, and we still have a limited stock of each type of car, both weathered and unweathered, numbered and lettered, or lettered and unnumbered. Please remember that Blackstone Models will not be restocking these hoppers, so when they are sold out they will be gone! See the insert mailed with this newsletter for more details.

We now have three "new" books in stock at the Company Store. These books are not reprints, but are original copies that author Jon Baughman didn't realize he still had and recently discovered. **All three are out of print and will not be reprinted.**

The first of these books is *Tales of the Broad Top I* by Jon D. Baughman and Ronald L. Morgan. This is the first in a series of four books written by Baughman and Morgan covering the history of the Broad Top by compiling historical accounts by both authors beginning in 1960 as they have appeared in the *Broad Top Bulletin* and *The Daily News*. As a result the authors have placed their spotlight on some of the more significant events, people and places that have

dominated the history of the region since the arrival of the first settlers in 1700. This soft cover book has 71 pages of text, photos and drawings. A limited number of copies are available; \$20.00* (catalog no. TBTI).

The second of these books is *From Coal to Glory, Vol. I, The History of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad & Coal Co., 1852-1874*, by Jon D. Baughman and Ronald L. Morgan. This is the first of two volumes of Baughman and Morgan's history of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal Company, the East Broad Top Railroad's standard gauge neighbor. This soft cover book contains 115 pages of fascinating text and photos covering the early years of the H&BTM RR and related historical sites. This book has been unavailable for many years; \$20.00* (catalog no. CTGV1).

The last "new" book is *From Coal to Glory, Vol. II, The History of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad & Coal Co., 1874-1900*, by Jon D. Baughman and Ronald L. Morgan. The second volume of Baughman and Morgan's history of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal Company covers the period from 1874 to 1900, telling the story of the glory years of the H&BTM RR when it was the sole link between the Pennsylvania Railroad's Bedford Division and its main line at Huntingdon. This soft cover book is 125 pages long and filled with historical photos and text; \$20.00* (catalog no. CTGV2).

*Remember that FEBT members qualify for a 15% discount on these prices; all orders must include payment for shipping of \$4.00 for the first book plus \$2.00 for each additional book. Also, Pennsylvania residents must include 6% state sales tax calculated on the total cost of books plus shipping.

For more information contact us at

FEBT Company Store
P. O. Box 145
Leetsdale PA 15056
Telephone: (412) 259-8020
E-mail: febtstore@verizon.net

FEBT displays at train shows and conventions: can you help?

Members of Friends of the East Broad Top continue to assist our outreach efforts by representing us at recent and upcoming train shows and conventions. In November FEBT members William L. Adams and Richard M. Ullery organized a display table at the Gaithersburg Railroad and Transportation Artifacts Show and Sale, where they distributed FEBT information to members of the public attending this annual Maryland show.

Next summer the **National Model Railroad Association's 2013 National Convention and Train Show** will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 14-20. FEBT members in that area interested in the possibility of setting up a FEBT display table at this event should contact FEBT outreach coordinator Dennis Straub, whose telephone number and e-mail address are given

below, so that we can reserve space at this event.

The **2013 National Narrow Gauge Convention** will be held in Pasadena, California, on August 28-31. FEBT members who plan to attend this convention and are interested in helping us with a display table should contact Dennis Straub as soon as possible, so we can confirm the necessary arrangements.

We are always happy to provide literature and information about the EBT and FEBT to FEBT members for distribution at train shows, conventions, and other events. Please contact FEBT outreach coordinator Dennis R. Straub by telephone at (717) 249-4239 (home) or by e-mail at denebntut@aol.com, providing as much advance notice as possible.

FEBT directors approve restoration budget for 2013

The projected budget for the restoration program this year was discussed and approved by FEBT directors in February. Including \$39,567.00 unspent funds allocated in previous years and carried forward, the total 2013 budget for restoration is \$64,165.00. The specific amounts authorized include \$5,100.00 for the brake components for our wood-frame reproduction passenger trucks; \$23,000.00 for work at Robertsdale; and \$36,065.00 for work at Rockhill Furnace. The projected spending at Robertsdale should allow us to complete our rehabilitation of the old post office, including final payments to our electrical and alarm-system contractors. The 2013 allocation for our Rockhill Furnace restoration work incorporates the cost of materials for our continuing restoration of East Broad Top Railroad combination passenger car no. 14, including \$17,000.00 for wheel castings.

Budgets for two other projects funded from restoration donations and grants were also approved in February. FEBT directors authorized spending \$970.34 for work on our digital archives project and \$1,500.00 for the construction of museum

display panels. Funding in 2013 for these projects consists entirely of previously allocated and unspent funds carried forward from 2012, which incorporate Amherst Railway Society grants FEBT received to support these efforts.

FEBT restoration fund treasurer Nancy E. Jacqmin reported to directors that FEBT had received more than \$29,000.00 from donations received at the unveiling of *Action at the Company Square: Robertsdale Pennsylvania*, at the 2012 Fall Reunion and from the formal announcement of our new fundraising campaign in our year-end appeal. Donations to our restoration fund are always welcome. Contributions supporting our restoration efforts qualify for treatment as tax-deductible donations. Please mail these contributions to us at the following address:

**FEBT Restoration Fund Treasurer
513 Shady Avenue, No. 12
Pittsburgh PA 15206-4447**

This newsletter is a publication of Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc., a nonprofit educational and historical society dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the East Broad Top Railroad, a US National Historic Landmark located in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. FEBT regular membership costs \$35.00 per twelve months; other memberships are available. For more information please consult the FEBT web site at www.febt.org or contact our membership office by writing to the address below. Although not affiliated with the East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company or the East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Association, Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc., holds events and work sessions on the property of the East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company by arrangement. The East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company and East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Association retain the right to restrict or deny access of any person to its property at any time and for any reason.
