

Malabar Farm News

The Malabar Farm Foundation

2/1/2017

Edition 3, Volume 1

If what we already know were simply applied to all the agricultural land of the world and the problem of proper distribution were given consideration, the world could feed itself well. – Louis Bromfield



In The Spotlight

Board Member & Volunteer Fred Malone shows the reproduced drapes in the Bromfield Study

One of the restoration projects funded by the Malabar Farm Foundation in 2016 was the reproduction of the drapes in Louis Bromfield's Study in the Big House. For many years, the drapes have hung in the east window of Bromfield's Study. Due to exposure to the sun and air, the drapes and their backing were in disrepair. They were full of tiny holes and could not be restored.

After looking at old photographs, it was discovered they originally hung behind Louis Bromfield's desk in the Study. Experts from the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA) found they were actually made of glazed cotton, not silk, and may have been silk screened. The Foundation has been working with the ICA, a non-profit regional art conservation center in Cleveland, Ohio for other artifact restoration projects in the Big House. The ICA offers conservation and preservation treatments for paintings, works on paper, textiles, and much more. They employ over 20 conservators and staff.

The original drapes were taken down and carefully wrapped in muslin for storage. The ICA worked with Kent State University's digital program that can reproduce artwork on textiles. They recreated the horse pattern that was originally painted by Jimmy Reynolds onto similar fabric. Mr. Reynolds was a set and costume designer in the 1940's from Virginia.

The fabric was then sewn into drapes by experts at the ICA and re-hung in the windows behind Louis Bromfield's desk in time for Heritage Days.

Down on the Farm

The Maple Syrup Festival by
Siera Marth, Assistant Park Manager

The 41st annual Maple Syrup Festival at Malabar Farm State Park will take place on the weekends of March 4th & 5th & March 11th & 12th from noon – 4:00 p.m.

Approximately 600 maple trees will be tapped in the woods at Malabar Farm to provide the sap necessary to make the maple syrup that is sold each year at the festival and in the Visitors Center Gift Shop.

The festival signals the first sign that spring is on its way and it is an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy nature. Come and experience the sugar camp life with historical demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides, food concessions in the Pugh Cabin, and maple products for sale in the lower Pugh Cabin. Tours of the Big House will also be available. The Big House tours are walk-through and free to the public during the Maple Syrup Festival.

The maze of tubing from the tapped maple trees makes its way to main line tubes that feed into a collection tank. From there the sap gets pumped up to the sugar house to be boiled down to the sweet tasting syrup.

(Continued page 2)

The Malabar Farm Foundation

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Down on the Farm The Maple Syrup Festival (From page 1)

Most of the water is boiled out of the sap with the use of a reverse osmosis process and an evaporator. The new evaporator and reverse osmosis system were purchased in 2015. Using the reverse osmosis process allows the sap to flow through a filter at high pressure before introducing the syrup into the evaporator. This technique saves energy and time. As the syrup moves into the finishing stages it is tested for density. When the syrup reaches the correct density, it is poured off and filtered to remove all debris and impurities.

The maple syrup season typically lasts 6 weeks depending on the weather. The sap begins to run when the temperatures are below freezing at night and above freezing during the day. The freezing and thawing causes the sap to move up and down the tree and run out the tap hole that was drilled into the tree. No lasting damage is done to the tree in the tapping process. It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Malabar Farm State Park generally produces 100 – 150 gallons of syrup each year. Ohio is fifth in production of maple syrup in the United States, producing about 100,000 gallons annually.

This event is free to the public. Donations to the Draft Horse Group are appreciated.

On the Bluebird Trail

By Chris McQuillen, Board Member & Volunteer

It was a very good season for bluebirds at Malabar Farm last year. All but 4 of the 24 nest boxes were used by bluebirds or tree swallows.

The first completed bluebird nest was March 30th in the camping area. That box produced 3 nestings of bluebirds over the season, March to September, for a total of 12 new bluebirds in the Park.

There are 7 boxes in the upper picnic (or horse staging) area and they were all used, some more than once. It is a favorite area for tree swallows and they share it with the bluebirds. There is always some initial squabbling, but they seem to work it out.

Since tree swallows feed "on the fly", and bluebirds are ground feeders, there is no competition for food. Both species are insect feeders, although bluebirds will eat berries, if necessary.

With the joy of seeing new bluebirds and tree swallows fledgling into the world, there always seems to be some tragedy. Six bluebirds were found dead in their nest, one adult and five nestlings, probably attacked by house sparrows. Later in the hot summer, a clutch of bluebirds nestlings were found dead, possibly from the extreme heat – always a heartbreak, but part of nature.

Instead of numbering, the bluebird boxes are named after Bromfield's books, the family, and his dogs. We have some house sparrow problems on the trail, as do many blue birders. Over the years, we have moved boxes away from the more sparrow-ridden areas and this has helped a great deal. Fellow volunteer, Frank Gwizdowski, has been a great help in maintaining the bluebird trail. He built 12 new boxes to replace the weather-aged ones.

We had an unusual nesting event in the upper picnic area on April 20th. I checked the box and there were 6 bluebird eggs! A normal clutch is 5 for the first nesting, then 4, and so on. This little bluebird female seemed to be a "super producer" and after her first family fledged around the middle of May, she proceeded to lay another 6 eggs! These fledged around the end of June. All I could think of was - wow! She certainly did her part for the bluebird population!

Our final tally for Malabar Farm in 2016 was 99 bluebirds and 24 tree swallows. Some of these birds will be back next year to repeat the cycle of life. When you are at Malabar Farm this spring, watch for that flash of bright blue and those chattering swallows going about their birding lives and marvel at the wonder of nature.

Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are an important asset to the Ohio State Park system. They direct, assist, and staff our many special events at the farm

To express your interest in volunteering or for more information:

Call: 419-892-2784

E-mail: mffspecialevents@yahoo.com

Visit: www.malabarfarm.org.



Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future: Bromfield's Political Views

By Paul Sukys, former Philosophy Professor at North Central State College

Louis Bromfield is generally known for two things: his early work as a Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and his later life as a farmer and agricultural conservationist. Bromfield had another vocation, however, one that becomes more and more intriguing as the years pass. That vocation involves his career as a political analyst. During this new career Bromfield produced two books, *A Few Brass Tacks* (1946) and *A New Pattern for a Tired World* (1954); several magazine articles, perhaps his most famous being "The Triumph of the Egghead," published in *The Freeman* in 1952; one controversial pamphlet, *England: A Dying Oligarchy* (1939); dozens of speeches at various meetings and dinners; and forty-four radio broadcasts from Malabar Farm. While generalizing about his political views is, at best, hazardous, two features do stand out. First, he had keen insight into the actual causes of the problems that faced his era, and second, he had a remarkably accurate view of the future, predicting such things as the formation of the European Union, the Vietnam War, and the rise of Brazil as a new economic powerhouse on the global stage.

Bromfield, however, did more than just analyze causes and predict the future. In addition, and more to the point, after diagnosing the causes and foreseeing the future, he formulated a detailed plan to solve the problems and to avoid future disasters. That plan calls for a realignment of nations designed to stabilize commerce, agriculture, energy needs, and, thus create a global political state characterized by universal order and stability. He suggests that the major powers (the United States, Russia, Europe, China, and Japan) each establish geographically arranged economic zones of development. For example, he urges the United States to join with Canada and Brazil; Russia to partner with China and Japan; Europe to create its own trading alliance; and India to link with Pakistan. Once these geo-economic zones are healthy, the leadership in each zone would extend their zone to include any nation within the zone that needs economic support.

In generating the radical plan, Bromfield has unapologetically exploited what he picked up by working Malabar Farm for fourteen years. He simply took the lessons he learned at Malabar and magnified their applicability to include the entire planet. Basically, each of the economic zones noted above ((1) the United States, Canada and Brazil; (2) Russia, China and Japan, (3) Europe, and (4) India and Pakistan) has the elements needed for success: a leading state capable of directing the process, resources including good soil and sufficient energy reserves, a manufacturing base and a series of built-in trading partners. The key to the success of each zone is to use the authority of the leading state to build a cross-cultural, de-centralized strategy that ignores borders and treats each zone as one large nation. Bromfield insists that the plan will succeed only if one of these zones becomes operational quickly to serve as an example for the rest of the globe. Reasonably, he calls upon the United States to create that first economic zone of development. More specifically, he urges the United States to join with Canada and Brazil to establish, in Bromfield's own words, "a coalition of nations or a single nation which could easily feed itself and a great part of the rest of the world and ... powerful enough to impose order and peace upon the whole world, as Rome did for nearly eight hundred years." (*A New Pattern*, pp. 84-85.)

The proposal sounds ambitious, perhaps a bit radical, some might even say "crazy" and, on the surface, it is rash, doubtless utopian, and yes, probably "crazy." However, Bromfield himself is none of these. He is instead, an even tempered, logical thinker. How then does he come up with a plan that turns the Western Hemisphere into the new Rome? In future issues of our new newsletter, this column will offer a series of articles that will trace the development of Bromfield's political thought from the 1930s through the 1950s, by examining and, at times, quoting those books, articles, pamphlets, speeches, and radio broadcasts that served as the soil from which the final plan for a new Rome, like Malabar Farm itself, grew to final fruition. Stay tuned for more, much more.

Giving is Living; Remember the Malabar Farm Foundation for Legacy Gifts

By Lorri Collins, Board Member & Volunteer

What does giving mean to you? The money you give today can go on giving for future generations. You can leave a living legacy by including the Malabar Farm Foundation in your estate planning. Money is like a river, it is meant to keep on flowing.

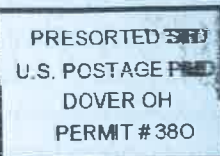
You don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference. We can all come together to make a difference. When you give to others, your simple gesture spreads positive energy throughout the community.

Your legacy gift will help the Malabar Farm Foundation to preserve, educate, promote and extend the legacy of Louis Bromfield, and all that has been and will be accomplished at Malabar Farm in the fields of agriculture, conservation, and literature.

If you plan to leave a legacy gift to the Malabar Farm Foundation, be sure to let us know. We would love to hear from you.

Around the Farm: Just some of the many groups that make Malabar Farm a unique place are the Bromfield Book Club, the Spinning and Weaving Guild, the Hostel, and The Malabar Farm Restaurant where members receive a 10% discount on meals. For more information visit our website: www.malabarfarm.org

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2017 Calendar of Events - (February – May)

AN EVENING WITH JUST JAZZ LIVE & FRIENDS

February 3 & 10 (Fridays) @ 6:00 p.m. & February 4 & 11 (Saturdays) @ 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. –

Preregistration is required. Call 419-892-2929

RICHLAND HEALTH – WINTER HIKE FOR HEALTH

February 11 - 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

March 4 & 5, March 11 & 12 – Noon – 4:00 p.m.

MOHICAN WILDLIFE WEEKEND (visit: www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com)

April 28, 29, 30 - Visit www.malabarfarm.org for a full list of participating locations & activities!

WILDLIFE BARN DANCE - April 29 - 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

RICH HISTORY WEEKEND – May 6 & 7 - 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (visit: www.richhistoryalliance.org)

Visit www.malabarfarm.org for a full list of specific location and activity information!

MAY BARN DANCE – May 27 - 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.