

# Malabar Farm News

The Malabar Farm Foundation

5/1/2017

Edition 4, Volume 1

*In a world as complex as this one, today's "truth" may well be tomorrow's "error." – Louis Bromfield,  
"Out if the Earth"*

## In The Spotlight

### The Story of the Big House Hooked Rug Wall Hanging



#### The Big House Hooked Rug Hanging now hangs in the Bromfield Library

Jack Heichel was a volunteer at Malabar Farm for many years. He wanted to "rug hook" a wall hanging of Malabar's Big House. From 2006 – 2008 Jack worked on the project. He and Harriet Brown, a member of the Spinning and Weaving Guild and a certified rug hooking teacher, drew a pattern of the Big House and transferred it to a piece of linen. Jack worked on the project until 2008 and later asked Carol Rahall, a friend and fellow member of the Guild to finish it for him. Jack passed away March 28, 2015.

In November 2015 the project was given to Carol Rahall. She studied the drawing and photos Jack had. She then began collecting wool, deciding on colors and what was needed to complete the project. In April 2016 she met with Tom Bachelder, a Malabar Farm volunteer and retired Art teacher, who helped her with details, shading, and colors. From April to mid-July Carol hooked every day. In mid-July the picture was completed and ready to be framed.

Carol called Larry Ault and his wife Carol, former members of the Guild. Larry Ault mats and frames rug hooking projects. He agreed to frame the picture, and also said he would donate his time and materials to the project in Jack's memory. The wall hanging was presented to the Malabar Farm Foundation at the August 11, 2016 Board meeting. Carol Rahall said "Thank you for giving me the honor and privilege of doing this." The Big House hooked rug hanging now hangs along with a framed copy of this story on the wall in the Bromfield Library in the Visitors Center.

## LOOKING BACK

By Tom Bachelder, Board Member & Volunteer

*The third issue of the Louis Bromfield Malabar Farm Newsletter was published in June of 1959. The following was excerpted from that newsletter and will continue the story of Malabar Farm following the death of Louis Bromfield.*

**June, 1959 (No. 3)**

Young people dominated the scene at Malabar Farm in May. Although the number of visitors during the month totaled 572, the gay laughter and conversation of the 110 youngsters included in this total had a tendency to make the smaller group predominate as they walked single file through the rooms of the Big House and over the nature trail. First graders, high school classes and college students thronged to Malabar in unprecedented numbers; probably more came during May 1959 than any other single month in the history of the farm.

A new farm manager, John A. Clark, joined the staff at the farm during the month. John has a lifetime of farming experience and has won recognition as a breeder of Holstein cattle. He is married and has 3 children. The Clarks will move to Malabar Farm just as soon as school closes in Norwalk.

The Willys-Overland Company in Toledo has agreed to repair Louis Bromfield's old Jeep – the same Jeep that carried Louis and a load of Boxer dogs on many a Sunday afternoon to the summit of Mount Jeez.

Continued page 2

## Join ~ Donate ~ Volunteer!

The Louis Bromfield Society is the membership program established to raise funds in support of Malabar Farm State Park's mission.

Your membership dues help the Malabar Farm Foundation, an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, continue to make education, development, and preservation projects possible at Malabar Farm State Park. All contributions are tax deductible, as provided by law. **Member \$50.00 / Friend \$100.00**

## The Malabar Farm Foundation

Contact us @

Website: [www.malabarfarm.org](http://www.malabarfarm.org)

Call: 419-892-2784

E-mail: [mffspecialevents@yahoo.com](mailto:mffspecialevents@yahoo.com)

Address: 4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas, Oh 44843

**Looking Back** (From page 1)

The Pontiac station wagon that belonged to the Bromfields has likewise been repaired and is being used to perform a variety of tasks on the farm. It has 60,000 miles on it.

A fine bull calf was born to our Holstein cow Lucy Lochinvar Hermes. The new baby which will be christened Malabar Oliver Lochinvar, was sired by our fine bull Pabst Oliver Roduke, received as a gift last spring from Pabst Farms in Wisconsin. Young Oliver will be the first registered calf to carry the "Malabar" prefix. Maybe he'll be the first of a long line of Malabar champion Holsteins.

We have a fine stand of corn on 85 acres and a 5 acre plot remains to be planted to corn and sorghum for ensilage. Similarly, there is a beautiful seeding of Ranger and Vernal alfalfas in the oats. The almost continuous wet weather has not held up field operations to any extent, with the exception of the vegetable garden. It is now completely planted, however. Added to the half-acre of Robinson strawberries planted last fall were 4 new varieties: Eden, Pocahontas, Earlidawn, and Paymaster. A planting of Latham red raspberries was also completed this spring.

Malabar Farm will soon begin a purebred Landacre hog program and 4 sows have arrived at the farm. Hay-making operations will begin soon and the work will be facilitated by a new Oliver mower with windrowing attachment, the first of a new type to be tested under normal farm conditions.

About the only dismal feature on the Malabar landscape this spring is the multi-floral rose. Our nearly two miles of mature rose hedges suffered severe winter damage; numerous plants were killed to the ground level and it still looks doubtful if these will sprout from below. Damage was greatest at the lowest elevation on the farm and the hedge surrounding the vegetable garden was completely killed and had to be removed. More comments on multiflora roses in a future newsletter.

**Down on the Farm - The Prairie Garden Gets a Pollinator Facelift**

By Siera Marth, Assistant Park Manager

The Visitors Center Prairie Garden, located at the north end of the building, will be receiving a facelift during the annual Mohican Wildlife Weekend, April 28 – 30, 2017. This year's theme for Mohican Wildlife Weekend is Ohio's Pollinator's" and this pollinator garden revitalization will serve as an outreach to park visitors to promote the development and protection of our precious pollinator habitats.

Pollinator friendly gardens help pollinators survive and flourish. Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles and other small mammals that pollinate plants help sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce. Pollination is the process of moving pollen from one flower to another of the same species. Almost all flowering plants need to be pollinated. Pollination is important because it leads to the production of fruits we can eat, and seeds that will create more plants.

The garden is currently home to native plants that are reminiscent of plant species found in prairie-like areas. Gale Martin, owner of Natives in Harmony, located in Marengo, Ohio has helped park staff to develop a list of the existing plants in the space and to suggest other native plants that will help to add color to the garden as well as attract the very important pollinators that keep our world thriving. Gales has also graciously offered to partner with the Mohican Wildlife Weekend sites who are planting pollinator gardens and is helping to cover partial costs of plant needs.

During the 3-day event, from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm each day, park visitors will have the opportunity to be part of the planting experience while park volunteers and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists are on site and working hands-on in the garden.

More information about the event and other events scheduled for Mohican Wildlife Weekend can be found at [www.malabarfarm.org/events](http://www.malabarfarm.org/events).

*~ Save the Date ~*

**"Sunday Drive" Car Show**  
**July 30, 2017, Noon – 4:00 p.m.**



Guests will travel back to a bygone era with a Sunday drive to the park to enjoy cars, stars, DJ music, car parade, dash plaques, awards, door prizes and food. Free to the public. Fee for cars registered. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.

## Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future: Bromfield's Political Views - The Roots of Bromfield's Philosophy

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

In the last issue of *Malabar Farm News*, we began our exploration of a long forgotten aspect of Louis Bromfield's career, his political philosophy. In this issue, we will examine the first expression of that philosophy. This search takes us to an unlikely destination, his first novels. While Bromfield does not find the full maturity of his political voice until the mid-twentieth century, he does reveal some of the basics in his early novels, especially the panel novels. Of those four novels, *The Green Bay Tree* is the most important because, in that novel, Bromfield unveils several key political themes that he will call upon for inspiration throughout his career.

The first theme that he reveals in *The Green Bay Tree* is the need to accept the Jeffersonian belief that, at their core, human beings are basically good. According to both Jefferson and Bromfield, this essential goodness is revealed in many ways not the least of which is in the basic human desire for independence. Bromfield believes that human beings must be free to make their own way in life. People who are encouraged to build their own futures will respond accordingly. In contrast, those who are pampered, coddled, and supported by the government will become dependent on that government and will lose the desire to prosper on their own.

The second theme in Bromfield's political philosophy is the need to accept our dependence on the laws of nature. Bromfield believes that a society thrives when it follows natural law and collapses when, out of arrogance or ignorance, it ignores that law. Understandably, he argues that human beings learn the lessons of nature best out in the open, on the land, and that the best land on which to learn those lessons is the land that is dedicated to farming. Farmers build productive, profitable, prosperous farms only when they appreciate how soil can be replenished, how water can be preserved, how cattle must be fed, how nutrients are used, how the weather can be predicted (within limits, of course), and so on. To ignore such basic principles is to risk the failure, first of individual farms, then of an entire nation, and eventually of all life on the planet.

The third theme is the concept of the natural aristocracy. This is one of Bromfield's most difficult concepts, primarily because the phrase itself conjures up visions of an elite class of superior beings. Of course, by this term, Bromfield means nothing of the sort. Instead, by the term natural aristocracy, Bromfield means those people who, for whatever reason, have the courage, the ability, the inclination, and the opportunity to stand up for the values that Jefferson and Bromfield hold dear. Those values include a love of freedom, justice, and integrity, and the satisfaction that comes from a job well done by honest labor. The natural aristocrats are the men and women who have the strength, the intelligence, and the values to effectively fight against the forces of materialism and entitlement, two forces that are controlled by those outside the natural aristocracy.

The fourth theme is the battle between industry and nature. The battle is manifested in many of Bromfield's works as the struggle between the natural aristocrats, represented by farmers and traditional home owners, on one side, and the new financial aristocrats, represented by politicians and industrialists, on the other. In the name of profit and progress, the rich industrialists acquire property to build factories, mills, and railroads with no regard for the destructive effects on the land itself. In their campaign for development, the industrialists are aided by politicians who pave the way for industrial expansion and, in the process, destroy the lives of the people who lose their land and end up working under intolerable conditions in those factories and mills. On the other side of the struggle, the farmers and home owners fight to preserve the land and along with it, the traditional values of hard work and human integrity.

Bromfield saw these things happen in his own life and dramatized them convincingly in *The Green Bay Tree*. In the next issue, we will look at how Bromfield projects several of these themes onto the global political scene in his first completely political treatise, *England: A Dying Oligarchy*.

**Art & Artifacts in the Big House Presentation:** One of our Foundation board members, Tom Bachelder, has put together a compelling slide presentation of the many pieces of art and artifacts in Louis Bromfield's Big House. The beauty is that they are not housed in a museum, but in the original setting of the Big House with the history and surroundings still intact. Tom is available to give a presentation to your group or organization. The Foundation has focused on restoring the art & artifacts in the Big House for the past two years.

**Newsletter Deadline:** If you would like to submit an article for the Malabar Farm News or have a suggestion for a topic, please let us know by e-mail, phone or mail (see page 1). Articles and suggestions will be used according to content and space availability. The deadline for the next newsletter is June 1, 2017.



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## Support the Malabar Farm Foundation when you make Amazon purchases:

Did you know that the Malabar Farm Foundation has a unique AmazonSmile link that makes it easier for people to find and support it?

Visit: [smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1768061](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1768061) and give us your support when you shop on Amazon. You'll find the same low prices and selection with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase to your favorite charitable organization, and the Malabar Farm Foundation is one of them!

Malabar Farm Foundation

4050 Bromfield Rd.

Lucas, Ohio 44843

### Upcoming Event Highlights:

**Mohican Wildlife Weekend** - April 28, 29, 30 Visit [mohicanwildlifeweekend.com](http://mohicanwildlifeweekend.com) for a full list of locations and events.

#### Malabar Farm Activities:

Planting a Pollinator Garden	April 28-30	11am – 4pm
Vernal Pool Study	April 29	10am – 11:30am
Bats are Pollinators Too!	April 29	12pm – 1pm
Wildlife Barn Dance	April 29	7pm – 10pm
Wildflower Hike	April 30	10am – 12pm
Butterflies & Skippers with "Wild Ginger"	April 30	2pm – 3pm
Recycled Milkweed Seed Paper	April 30	11am – 2pm
& Mushroom Hike	April 30	1pm – 2pm

**RichHistory Weekend** – May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 10a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit [richhistoryalliance.org](http://richhistoryalliance.org) for a full list of locations and activities

#### Malabar Farm Activities:

Spinning & weaving Demonstrations	May 6 – 7	10am – 4pm
History Hike	May 6	10am - Noon
Edible Plants of Early Ohio Settlers	May 6	2pm – 3pm
Bean Soup at the Mill	May 6	11am – 5pm
May Night Haunt	May 6	8pm - Midnight
Picnic with Laura Ingalls Wild	May 7	11am & 1pm
Eyewitness to history: The Ceely Rose Case	May 7	3pm

Visit [www.malabarfarm.org/events](http://www.malabarfarm.org/events) for a complete list of events, dates & times