

# Malabar Farm News

The Malabar Farm Foundation

11/1/2017

Edition 6, Volume 2

*Our house is a big house, well built, to be used not only by ourselves but by friends and neighbors as well, and by generations after we are dead.*

– Louis Bromfield, Pleasant Valley, 1945

## In The Spotlight



### Malabar Farm State Park Voted Best

The Mansfield News Journal announced the winners in the "2017 BEST OF MID-OHIO" contest in the Sunday edition of the paper on September 10, 2017. Malabar Farm State Park won the votes for best in the "Family Fun" category.

### Congratulations to Foundation Board Member, Fred Malone

Malabar Farm Foundation board member, Fred Malone was selected as the 2017 Outstanding Senior Citizen for Marion County by the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging Inc. He and eight other recipients were honored on Thursday, August 24th at a ceremony hosted at Hawkins Corner. "Fred Malone is a dedicated volunteer in the Marion community and is very active in helping the Marion Senior Center whenever and wherever needed," said Steve Baderstcher, Director of the Marion Senior Center.

Malone has not only served the Marion County Senior Center, but among other things, also has worked extensively with the Marion County Historical Society, serving on the board for seven years. He co-founded "Dinner with the Presidents" and "Lunch with the Presidents," portraying different historical figures during many programs, and volunteering as a docent.

We know Fred's many talents here at Malabar Farm as a board member, dedicated volunteer, his tireless work in the art restoration project, and the many characters he has portrayed for events including George Hawkins and Groucho Marx.

### 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**

## LOOKING BACK

By Tom Bachelder, Board Member & Volunteer

*The fifth issue of the Louis Bromfield Malabar Farm Foundation Newsletter was published in August of 1959. It continues the story of Malabar Farm following the death of Louis Bromfield.*

**August, 1959 (No.5)**

The student training program in agriculture at Malabar Farm will get under way officially on Aug. 15 when Bill Donaldson, son of Dr. Richard B. Donaldson of Chattanooga, Tennessee comes to the farm for three weeks of intensive instruction. While here Bill will learn the fundamentals of livestock judging at the Ohio State Fair..., visit the Coshocton Hydrologic Station, Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. He will also take part in a variety of work details at Malabar and receive instruction in ecology, wildlife management and other phases of conservation from Dr. Chapman. It is planned to have a limited number of students come to Malabar each year, not only from the U.S. but from foreign lands, thus continuing a program begun by Louis Bromfield.

A significant accomplishment at Malabar during July was the completion of a new road to the summit of Mt. Jeez. The old road had to be abandoned because of steep grades. Those taking part in the farm tour Sunday afternoon can now enjoy one of the most impressive views in Ohio - the panorama includes all of Malabar Farm, a part of Pleasant Hill Lake, and the far-away hills of Ashland and Knox Counties. -Pg. 2

## The Malabar Farm Foundation

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### Looking Back (From page 1)

Visitors to the farm in Bromfield's day will recall how "the prophet of the New Agriculture" used to take his Sunday afternoon visitors to the top of Mt. Jeez, and from this inspiring vantage point, literally preach the fundamentals of good soil and water conservation as he had learned them in actual practice at Malabar Farm.

Crop report: all of the wheat crop has been combined and sold and the oats have been harvested and stored in the big dairy barn for cattle feed next winter. Hay making is still in progress, but straw is yet to be cut and baled. Rainfall has been plentiful and has interrupted these activities. The new Oliver "Swather", a hay mower and windrower has proved to be very effective on flat and hilly land alike. The corn crop looks even better than last year and a hailstorm caused little, if any, damage. DeKalb Agricultural Associates have erected attractive signs that call attention to the DeKalb field corn hybrids, and their Educational Director, Leon Hallberg visited us in July to inspect the test plots.

The Malabar roadside market at the Niman spring is doing a very good business and the attractive displays of sweet corn, cabbage, beets, cucumbers, green beans, and watercress, cooled and crisped by the perpetual flowing water, are drawing hundreds of customers. People come from considerable distances to obtain vegetables free of chemical sprays and dusts.

Innovations in the Souvenir Room at Malabar are a refrigerated milk dispensing machine given us by Bordens and a demonstration beehive furnished by A.I. Root Company, Medina.

Plans are in the making for the Fourth Malabar Colloquium to be held October 31 and November 1. During this "long weekend" a dozen or more scientists will be invited to the farm to discuss the problems concerned in "Farm Woodlot Management". Some of the meetings will be held in the Doris Duke Woods at Malabar, a most appropriate setting for the subject to be discussed. Visitors to Malabar today are told the story of how Louis Bromfield loved trees so much that he postponed year after year, the cutting of cull and over-mature trees that had been marked for harvest by Ohio Experiment Station foresters. When in ill health some months before his death, he was finally persuaded to cut the Malabar timber. A timber cutting contract was signed but the job was then sub-contracted to an out-of-state firm. A woods crew came in and began a destructive logging operation that literally ruined about fifteen or twenty acres of woodland before it could be stopped. About this time, Miss Doris Duke, a longtime friend of Louis Bromfield, made a substantial donation to the Malabar project and a part of these funds was promptly used to buy back the Malabar timber. Thanks to Miss Duke, a beautiful woodland of about 180 acres was saved.

### Art Restoration Project in the Big House

For the past two years a primary focus of the Malabar Farm Foundation has been the restoration and preservation of Louis Bromfield's art collection in the Big House. We are fortunate to have the Cleveland based Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA), a non-profit organization with an international reputation, helping us with this effort.

This is an ongoing project that will extend some years into the future. Your continuing support of the Foundation's efforts is much appreciated. Beginning with this issue we will feature artworks that have been restored.

This oil painting, one of the first pieces restored by ICA, is of Louis Bromfield and Prince, his favorite boxer. It was painted by J. Anthony Wills in 1946. Anthony Wills went on to paint portraits of Presidents Eisenhower, Truman, and Nixon. His portraits of Nixon and Truman hang in the White House.



Remember the Malabar Farm Foundation on November 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm for the Richland Gives – Day of Giving. Our community will come together for 12 hours of unprecedented giving! Make a donation online @ [richlandgives.org](http://richlandgives.org).

## Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future:

### Was Bromfield a Card Carrying Liberal or a Red State Conservative?

By Paul Sukys, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Law, North Central State College

Bromfield's political agenda is hard to pinpoint primarily because he really had no political agenda, at least not in the way that we understand that phrase today. In fact, he had little experience in politics, save for the times when, as a child, he accompanied his father on political trips into the industrial flats of Mansfield.

We do know that, by the mid-1940s, Bromfield had developed a reputation as an anti-communist Republican who was, at one time, considered by Senator Taft as a likely choice for Secretary of Agriculture. Yet, when Bromfield first ventured into political commentary, he was known as a liberal intellectual. This view of Bromfield as a left wing critic of the establishment reached its peak with the publication of a treatise entitled *England: A Dying Oligarchy*.

This treatise (a pamphlet really, covering only 32 pages) was published in 1939 after Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and his associates had permitted Germany to absorb Czechoslovakia. In this little known and seldom read treatise, Bromfield declares that England is not now and never has been a democracy, at least not since the Barons at Runnymede, "wrested" the Magna Carta from King John and established, instead, an oligarchy ruled by the Saxon nobility.

The fact that England is an oligarchy is not, in and of itself, objectionable, although it clearly offends Bromfield's Jeffersonian sensibilities. What disturbs Bromfield the most, however, are the two conditions upon which that oligarchy depends: the English caste system and English hypocrisy. Again, the simple fact that England is built upon a caste system is not the chief difficulty. Instead, the problem is that the English caste system is based not only on heredity (bad enough) but also on money (worse yet).

As members of the upper class, the Saxon nobles are out to protect their position in society by welcoming into their ranks the *nouveau riche* industrial exploiters who, in essence, buy their way into nobility. The nobility, new and old alike, manage to line their pockets with gold at the expense of those members of the lower classes who will be called to serve overseas and those at home who must work in the factories, mines, and mills to help in the war effort while hoping to make a decent wage.

Inextricably intertwined with the English caste system is English hypocrisy. Bromfield declares that the aristocracy suffers from two brands of hypocrisy, modern Anglo-Saxon hypocrisy and the historical hypocrisy of English statecraft. The early practitioners of English statecraft used deception and deceit as diplomatic and military tools designed to outwit global opponents. Without diplomatic duplicity and military deception, such historic victories as the English defeat of the Spanish Armada, would have been impossible. For this reason, the ancient members of the nobility who practiced English statecraft can be, if not forgiven, at least, understood.

In contrast, Bromfield's view of modern Anglo-Saxon hypocrisy is not as kind. On the contrary, Bromfield accuses the modern nobility of justifying any immoral action that will preserve personal or class power. Bromfield's strongest complaints about English hypocrisy emerge when he notes that the English oligarchy sat on the sidelines while the anti-fascist rebels were defeated in Spain, while the Abyssinians were enslaved by Mussolini, while the people of Manchuria were massacred, and while the Chinese were vanquished, all in the name of saving English trade, which was simply another way of ensuring the prosperity of the nobility and the continuation of the economic caste system.

Inevitably, Bromfield concludes that the blame for England's inability to deal effectively with Hitler must be placed on the shoulders of the Saxon leaders, in general, and, in particular, on those of Chamberlain. Accordingly, Bromfield suggests a very pragmatic solution. He advocates the election of a determined leader who will fill the role of Prime Minister properly. In short, he demands that the English people and the Saxon nobles alike place a *natural aristocrat* in the office of the Prime Minister.

So, was Bromfield a card-carrying liberal, or a red state capitalist? The answer is—neither. Instead, he was a very practical man who valued strategies and tactics that actually work in economics and politics (and, oh yes, in agriculture too). Next time - more on *England: A Dying Oligarchy* and an introduction to *When the Rains Came* - an undervalued political polemic.

**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 December 31, 2017. Questions or comments – contact Lorri Collins @ mffspecialevents@yahoo.com



## **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

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### **Malabar Farm Foundation Announces a New Scholarship Program**

The Malabar Farm Foundation is excited to announce a new Scholarship Program that focuses on improving language art skills and understanding the need for conservation of our natural resources. This program is available to all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Richland County students.

Students will submit a written essay on the benefit and needs for conservation after spending a day at Malabar Farm State Park. The day will be spent touring the farm, learning more about the heritage of Louis Bromfield and his passion for conservation, and attending a lecture on soil conservation that increases their knowledge on the need to conserve this valuable natural resource. Following the "Day at Malabar" students will submit their essays to the Foundation. Essays will be judged on their language art skills and their awareness of the importance of soil conservation. Three cash scholarships will be awarded (First Place \$300.00, Second Place \$125.00, Third Place \$75.00).

Deadline for submitting applications will be March 1, 2018. The "Day at Malabar" will be April 14, 2018, and student essays will need to be submitted by April 30, 2018. Essays will be judged by a Foundation committee on their grammatical correctness, sentence structure, usage, mechanics, spelling, definition, punctuation (standard 7<sup>th</sup> grade level expectations) and their awareness of soil conservation. Scholarships will be awarded at a Foundation board meeting in June 2018.

We are very happy to make this program available to all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Richland County students and we encourage your participation. Letters have been mailed to all Richland County school principals announcing the program. Applications may be obtained from your 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher or by downloading it from the website [malabarfarm.org](http://malabarfarm.org). We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Siera Marth at Malabar Farm State Park (419-892-2784) or David Culler, Foundation Board member (419-892-3577).