



# The Malabar Farm News

A publication of the Malabar Farm Foundation

Spring 2021

## The Malabar Farm Foundation Launches New Website

On April 15th The Malabar Farm Foundation launched a new website [www.malabarfarm.org](http://www.malabarfarm.org) to better promote the legacy of Pulitzer Prize winning author Louis Bromfield and to support the preservation of his historic home and farm, established in 1939 and now Ohio's Malabar Farm State Park.

In 1993, the Malabar Farm Foundation, Inc. was established as an all-volunteer, community advisory board and non-profit foundation to provide assistance to Malabar Farm State Park in preserving the legacy of Louis Bromfield through donations, projects, fundraising, and grants. Louis Andres, Malabar Farm Foundation founder had this to say,

*The current Malabar Farm Foundation, continues the legacy of Louis Bromfield. What better way to promote and preserve his writings and expand his influence than through today's internet technology. This new website brings Bromfield's works to a new generation. Bromfield was an influencer using the power of his pen. Today, the Foundation can influence the next generation using the power of the internet.*

### What the New Website has to Offer

The vintage look of the new Foundation website gives it a unique feel and distinct 1940s and 50s era look that showcases the land, legacy and life of Louis Bromfield and Malabar Farm. The new website focuses on the history and legacy of the farm and the ongoing role that the Foundation plays in the renovation and preservation of the Bromfield home and its many artifacts.

The website includes many never-seen photos, a virtual tour of the Big House, a blog, updates on renovation/preservation projects, a bibliography and a filmography of Bromfield's works. The new website store offers Bromfield's books and in the future will offer artwork from local artists, e-books, and unique items created by the Malabar Farm Spinning and Weaving Guild. Proceeds from the sale of Guild items will also support various local charities.

This project was made possible through the volunteer efforts of Louis Andres, Malabar Farm Foundation member and Ginger Patterson, Foundation IT Volunteer and founder of Growth Zone Media. This project was completed in local partnership with DRM Productions of Mansfield. The website is a great resource to learn and explore the legacy of Louis Bromfield and involve our community of friends.

A new Facebook page was also recently launched, [@MalabarFarmFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/MalabarFarmFoundation). It features upcoming Foundation events and historical highlights. We invite you to explore Malabar Farm Foundation's new home on the web at [www.malabarfarm.org](http://www.malabarfarm.org).

*Man cannot himself escape from Nature. Neither can he ever subdue her or attempt to exploit her endlessly without himself becoming the victim.*

– Louis Bromfield 1945

## The Malabar Farm Foundation

### Contact Us

Website - [www.malabarfarm.org](http://www.malabarfarm.org)  
Facebook - [www.fb.com/malabarfarm](https://www.facebook.com/malabarfarm)  
e-mail - [mffspecialevents@yahoo.com](mailto:mffspecialevents@yahoo.com)  
Address - 4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas OH 44843

## My Malabar Journey

by Fred Malone

I was born in 1950 to a dairy farming family in rural southern Scioto County, Ohio. My grandfather Walter started the dairy in the 1920s under the name W. E. Malone Dairy, eventually becoming W. E. Malone and Sons Dairy as three sons came along. My father Grant was the oldest along with his brothers, Albert and W.E. "Junior." At the peak of the operation we were milking 110 head of Jersey cows on a 400 acre farm. The business included three delivery trucks with routes in the Lucasville area. My dad and his brothers handled the deliveries which included milk, cream, butter, eggs, and smearcase (cottage cheese). When the business flourished in the 40's and 50's the farm supported four families.



In addition we raised some beef cattle, hogs, and lambs for our personal consumption. Some of my fondest memories are of gathering around the breakfast after the 4:00 am milking to a huge breakfast with 8 to 10 family members. In the afternoon, I looked forward to heading out to the pasture with our collie Queenie to round up the girls for their 4:00 pm milking. There is nothing more beautiful than a Jersey cow. Their faces are almost angelic and their coloring so pleasant to admire. Grandpa always kept 5 or 6 cows in the small pasture next to our lane for people to admire when they drove down Fairgrounds Road. Those were certainly the days that are permanently burned into my memory.

Of course, all good things must come to an end. With the death of my grandfather in 1958 and the advent of more competition from corporate milking operations and government regulations, the dairy was brought to an end in the early 1960's.

I wanted to share my farming background with you to preface my love of Malabar Farm itself. My initial contact with Malabar came in 1954. My grandfather, father, brother and I made the long Sunday drive to Malabar in the summer of "54" to hear Louis give one of his Sunday "Sermons on the Mount." I must confess, the only thing I really remember about that day was playing with the dogs. However, this was my first contact with Malabar Farm, long before it became a state park.

I am sorry to say that my next contact with Malabar didn't come for another 25 years. The summer of 1978 brought me to Wyandot County to accept a new job as Vice President of the First National Bank of Sycamore. The fall of 1978 brought me back to Malabar to visit and to hike the trails. Over the next several years my family and I made annual visits to Malabar to hike and attend events.

I was heartbroken when the barn burned in 1993. However, during the Labor Day weekend of 1994, while an auxiliary officer with the Ohio Highway Patrol, I was able to see the barn-raising while being part of traffic control. I retired as President of the bank in 2000 and became a corrections deputy for the Marion County-Multi County Corrections Center.

In December of 2004, I took my then fiancé Terri to the Christmas Open House at the farm. While there I asked about the possibility of being married in the Big House. I was told yes and a wedding was held on July 15, 2005 between the double staircases in the Big House. We held our reception in the Pugh Cabin and began our life together.



After retiring from my position as a corrections deputy in December of 2010, I wanted to become more involved with Malabar. Terri and I started volunteering at barn dances and other events. I became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Malabar Farm Foundation in 2011. Over the years we have been actors in the cemetery for Night Haunts, helped with Maple Syrup Festival and Ohio Heritage Days, and many other events. Terri, a music teacher, has played the Bromfield family's Steinway parlor grand piano in the Big House on many occasions.

Living in Marion, we have logged thousands of miles in travel to volunteer at the farm. My personal project while a board member, has been the establishment of the art and artifacts restoration program in the Big House. Over the last six years, we have restored nearly 40 oil paintings and numerous pieces of furniture. Since that first trip to Malabar Farm in 1954 I have grown to cherish my memories made at this wonderful place. Everything that I have done has been a labor of love.



**Chris McQuillen and the Bluebirds of Malabar**  
By Tom Bachelder

Among the most pleasing of the many wildlife sightings that I have had the privilege of experiencing at Malabar Farm are those fleeting moments when a tiny snippet of blue sky dashes across my path and following its flight I discover a dapper little bluebird, settled on a nearby branch or fence post, proudly displaying his orange breast for all the world to see.

The Bluebird Trail at Malabar Farm State Park had its beginnings in late 1986 with new Park volunteers Chris McQuillen and Gil Trail. The Park staff was already offering bluebird programs, including the construction of bluebird nesting boxes. Chris remembers that she and Gil, “Put our boxes up in late March, and lo and behold sometime in April we had a bluebird nest with five eggs in it. . . . from that time we were hooked on bluebirds.”

In the years that followed, Chris and Gil helped the Park staff with all of their bluebird programs. When those Park staff members was transferred away from Malabar Farm, Chris and Gil took over the bluebird programing, expanded it, and eventually were maintaining a Bluebird Trail of almost eighty boxes. In 1990 Gil became too ill to continue with the program, leaving Chris to carry on the best that she could. Gil passed away in 2001 and Chris admits that by then the trail was looking “poorly.” Fourteen boxes located around Ferguson Meadow were discontinued, as were another fourteen boxes surrounding the old brick farmhouse on Bromfield Road when the Park staff repurposed those areas. A number of other boxes had been vandalized or damaged by mowers. Fortunately at this time Don and Diana Plant, along with the Greater Mohican Audubon Society, stepped in to help refurbish the trail. The Malabar Farm Foundation also purchased twenty new boxes constructed by a local Amish friend. Currently the boxes

located in in the horse staging area of Malabar Farm are the most productive. According to Chris most of the boxes are occupied by bluebirds in a season, with some bluebirds nesting twice and occasionally even three times in a season. Other native cavity nesting birds such as tree swallows, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, and small woodpeckers also frequently take up temporary residence in a box and being native cavity nesting birds are welcomed. Chris checks boxes regularly to keep track of what’s going on in each one and who is nesting there. Once the eggs have hatched and the birds have fledged the old nesting material has to be cleaned out and the box readied for a new nest. So, if you are privileged enough to catch sight of a piece of blue sky flitting past you at Malabar Farm this summer you have Chris McQuillen and Gil Trail to thank. Chris’s dedication to Malabar’s bluebirds endures to this day.

*I can't help save the whales or stop Redwood trees from being cut down. But right here, in our own area, I can help our native cavity nesters flourish, and in my little way help the environment.*

– Chris McQuillen



**New Mohican Regional Trails Map For 2021**

The newly revised Mohican Regional Trail Guide, Ohio's only multi-trails guide, covers more than seventy miles of interconnected Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding, Water trails and Paved Bikeways in the Greater Mohican Area covering both Ashland and Richland counties. Park areas include Malabar Farm and Mohican State Parks, Mohican Memorial State Forest, Pleasant Hill Lake Park, the Richland County Park District, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, and the Village of Loudonville. This edition is the most comprehensive and accurate map available for this area, with detailed GPS marked trailways, trail heads, facilities and points of interest. Proceeds from the sale of the Trail Guide (Only \$2) will benefit trail maintenance, and educational programs sponsored by the Mohican Trails Club. The new Guides are available now for sale at the Malabar Farm Gift Shop, the Mohican State Park Lodge, the Mohican Camp Commissary, Pleasant Hill Lake Park Camp Store locations and several local area businesses.

**Did You Know?**

You can support the Malabar Farm Foundation shop on-line at Amazon. Go to smile.amazon.com. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. Choose Malabar Farm Foundation as your charity. At no cost to you a percentage of each purchase will be donated to The Malabar Farm Foundation.

You can also support the Malabar Farm Foundation through the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Your Kroger Plus Card can be linked to a charity so that each time you shop for groceries or gas a percentage will be credited to the charity of your choice. If you do not already have a Kroger Plus Card one can be obtained at the Kroger Customer Service desk. Then, go on-line at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), create an account and link your Kroger Plus Card to the Malabar Farm Foundation from the list of charities.

**Down On The Farm**

It is hoped that Malabar Farm State Park will be resuming some events and activities beginning June 1, 2021. However, please check the official Ohio State Park website at [www.ohiodnr.gov](http://www.ohiodnr.gov) for confirmation of this before making your Malabar Farm related plans.



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The Malabar Farm Foundation serves to provide funding and resources in support of Malabar Farm State Park and to perpetuate the legacy of Louis Bromfield and his work for a sustainable future. Your membership in the *Louis Bromfield Society* allows the Foundation to provide on-going restoration projects, programs, and education to preserve and promote Malabar Farm’s rich heritage.

Tax deductible donations to the Malabar Farm Foundation can be made by cash, check, or credit card.

- Member** - \$50 / year
- Friend** - \$100 / year
- I would like to make an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**  
Malabar Farm Foundation, Inc.  
4050 Bromfield Rd.  
Lucas, OH 44843



**Please fill out and return form with payment**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card Information:** Card type: \_\_\_\_\_

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Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_