



New Officers Elected to Guide the Malabar Farm Foundation

At the Malabar Farm Foundation's Annual Meeting, held on July 11, 2024, four Foundation Trustees were elected to serve as the officers of this year's Executive Committee.

The Foundation's new **President** is Louis Andres. Louis brings over 40 years of government service to his new Foundation role. He currently serves as Mansfield's Director of Public Works, and was Malabar Farm State Park's manager for over 23 years. In 1993, Louis was instrumental in establishing the Malabar Farm Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting the legacy of Louis Bromfield and providing financial support to Malabar Farm.

The Foundation's new **Vice President** is Kenny Libben. Kenny grew up in nearby Perrysville, Ohio and is the curator of Loudonville's Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, where he has received numerous awards for his work. He has been featured on national television and has spoken widely about the cultural importance of museums. He also leads various non-profits focused on education and agriculture.

Dr. Gregg Gascon is the Foundation's new **Secretary**. Gregg is a data science advisor at OhioHealth and has published over 25 peer-reviewed articles in professional journals. He received his PhD from The Ohio State University in 2007 and is an adjunct assistant professor of biomedical informatics in its College of Medicine. Malabar Farm has been a favorite destination of the Gascon family for many years. Gregg is invested in preserving the legacy of Louis Bromfield and Malabar Farm (or, as it came to be known in the 1940s, "the most famous farm in America.")

The Foundation's **Treasurer** position is in the very capable hands of David Crawford. Dave has an MBA from Northwestern University and served in the Navy

Reserves for 37 years, retiring with the rank of commander. He has served as the Foundation's treasurer for many years. He is also treasurer for the Mansfield Rotary Club and the Mansfield Rotary Club Foundation.

As you can see, the Malabar Farm Foundation will be in excellent leadership hands in the coming year.



Left to right – Kenny Libben, David Crawford, Gregg Gascon, Louis Andres

A Very Successful Year

The Malabar Farm Foundation operates on a fiscal year that runs from July to July. The year ending with the Foundation's Annual Meeting on July 11, 2024 was a very productive one, with the Foundation providing nearly \$45,000 in support to Malabar Farm and the legacy of Louis Bromfield.

Below is a list of the activities and events completed between July 2023 and July 2024 that were paid for by the Foundation.

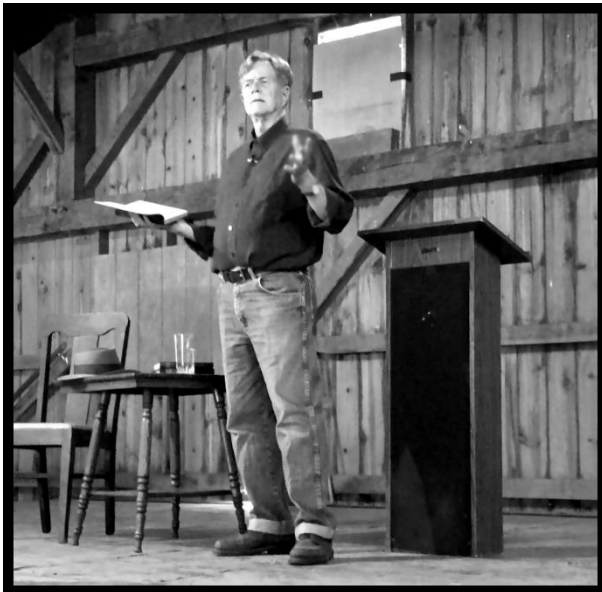
- New flooring in the Kitchen in the Big House
- Four shade trees for the livestock pasture

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- Contributed to bringing a Louis Bromfield actor/presenter to Malabar Farm for the 2024 Ashland, Ohio *Chautauqua*
- Restoration, cleaning, and preservation of the Jimmy Reynolds painted panels in Bromfield's Study in the Big House
- Repair and repainting the three iconic cupolas on Malabar Farm's main barn
- Restoration of one of the original Bromfield bed spreads in the Big House Honeymoon Room
- Restoration and re-painting of over 80 shutters on the exterior of the Big House
- Farm animal care
- Tuning of the Big House piano for Christmas
- Wall repair in the Kitchen bathroom after a major water leak was discovered behind the wall

With the exception of the contribution to the Ashland Chautauqua for the Bromfield presenter all of the above were *paid in full* by the Foundation.



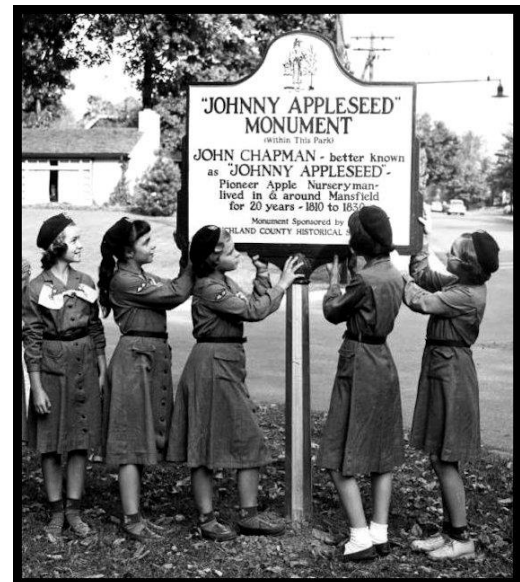
John Anderson Dennis appearing as Louis Bromfield at Malabar Farm on the evening of April 27, 2024

The satisfaction of doing a good job is not only greater than any amount of money or ballyhoo, but in the long run it is a much sounder foundation on which to build a whole structure of achievement.

— Louis Bromfield

A Heritage Worth Celebrating

Ohio Heritage Days will be held on September 28 & 29, 2024 from 10am to 4pm at Malabar Farm State Park located in southern Richland County, Ohio. In celebration of Johnny Appleseed's 250th birthday the Malabar Farm Foundation trustees, in partnership with volunteer agricultural groups, will provide hands on apple cider pressing demonstrations and free sampling on the grounds of the historic Ceely Rose House. Johnny Appleseed's history in Ohio will be highlighted, as well as the importance of early apple orchards planted by Johnny in the settlement of the Northwest Territory. The Foundation will also have a visual display of Malabar Farm's founder Louis Bromfield's literary career and his sustainable agriculture practices at Malabar Farm.



Johnny Appleseed historic Marker in Mansfield, Ohio, ca. 1950. The marker is located at the intersection of Brinkerhoff Avenue and Summit Street at the entrance to Central Park.

You can learn more about the life of John Chapman, aka Johnny Appleseed, and discover the fascinating connection he had to the greater Mansfield and Richland County area at:

www.destinationmansfield.com/johnny-appleseed-historic-byway/



Still Life With Apples
William Rickarby Miller, 1881

Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future -- The Pogo Principle

by

Paul Sukys, Professor Emeritus,
North Central State College

One of the first columns printed in this newsletter under the title of "Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future" was a piece that focused on Louis Bromfield's objective moral system. In that column we established that, despite the tendency of some literary critics to paint Bromfield as a moral pessimist or worse, a moral relativist, he was neither. Instead, he was a practical minded thinker who believed in universal justice, honesty, and integrity, and who was convinced that virtue was its own reward.



Louis Bromfield and his ubiquitous boxers ca. 1950

Bromfield was, of course, a product of 20th century thought and so, when he wrote about moral issues, he did so expecting his readers to share certain unspoken assumptions. Among those assumptions were, (1) a belief in the importance of free speech, (2) an understanding that people on both sides of an issue needed to be judged by the content of their character, not by their membership in a class, race, gender, nationality or political party, (3) an assumption that all sides in a debate would be courteous to one another and, (4) a belief that all sides would recognize and follow the laws, regulations, and rules that framed the issue on the table. Unfortunately, in the aftermath of the Second World War, Bromfield began to perceive a change in how those basic principles were acknowledged and followed.

From 1950 through 1954, Bromfield lived through the age of Joseph McCarthy, the Senator from Wisconsin, who

managed a campaign against alleged Communist infiltrators in the United States. While McCarthy may have begun his crusade with noble intent, it quickly degenerated into a witch hunt dedicated more to the preservation of one senator's political career than to the destruction of a totalitarian regime's attempt to undermine the American system from within. The Senator's game plan included unconstitutional violations of First Amendment freedom of speech guarantees, as well as Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment assurances of due process and equal protection of the law.

Much of this must have disappointed Bromfield who, during the early years of the Second World War, hoped for a post-war future that would involve the cooperation of the United States and Russia as partners in a new world that would be united under a banner of mutual trust, fellowship, hope, and solidarity.

He expressed this hope in an article, titled "The U.S. and Russia," that appeared in the Fall and Winter 1942-43 edition of a journal named *The Land*. In that article Bromfield wrote, "After this war there are going to be two great nations. One is Russia. The other is America . . . For the first time in history, the world will be dominated by two nations that don't want to be in power . . . For the first time in history there comes the opportunity of a newer and more decent world."

It would be very gratifying if, at this point in the column, I could write that Bromfield's vision of "a newer and more decent world" had come to pass. To even hint at such, however, would be dishonest. Neither the United States nor Russia have made much progress since the dark days of the Second World War. In fact, if anything, the world has gotten much worse.

Of course, the story is not over. We can yet build the kind of future that Bromfield envisioned. What it takes is for us to see that we are all in this together, and that those of us with the resources must be willing, even eager, to share those resources in an even-handed way. Of course, let's not be naïve. The road to the future is fraught with difficulties, some clearly visible, others hidden in the mists ahead.

The difficulty in meeting this goal rests within our own character and, therefore, if we fail, we will only have ourselves to blame. It is fitting, therefore, that we end this column with the words of a Bromfield era writer, Walt Kelly, the creator of the comic strip *Pogo*. Let's try to ensure that his words do not soon become the epitaph for planet Earth. "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

Did You Know?

You can help the Malabar Farm Foundation support Malabar Farm 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 get 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 online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com, create an account and link your Kroger Plus Card to the Malabar Farm Foundation from the list of charities.

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The Malabar Farm Foundation -Contact Us-

Website - www.malabarfarm.org
Facebook - www.fb.com/malabarfarm
email - info@malabarfarm.org
Mail - P.O. Box 551, Lucas, OH 44843



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

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

Make checks payable to:
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