



The Malabar Farm News

A publication of the
Malabar Farm Foundation

Fall
2024



Christmas at Malabar Farm -Then and Now-

. . . at Malabar's beginning [1941] we had planted a grove of Scotch firs close together so that every year at Christmastime we might take a tree . . . We brought it home along a snow-laden road by tractor and wagon and dragged it through the front door to its place between the twin staircases. . . Its decoration was a busy, complicated affair which involved running up the stairs, swinging from the banister with a lot of tinsel and sliding back down again.

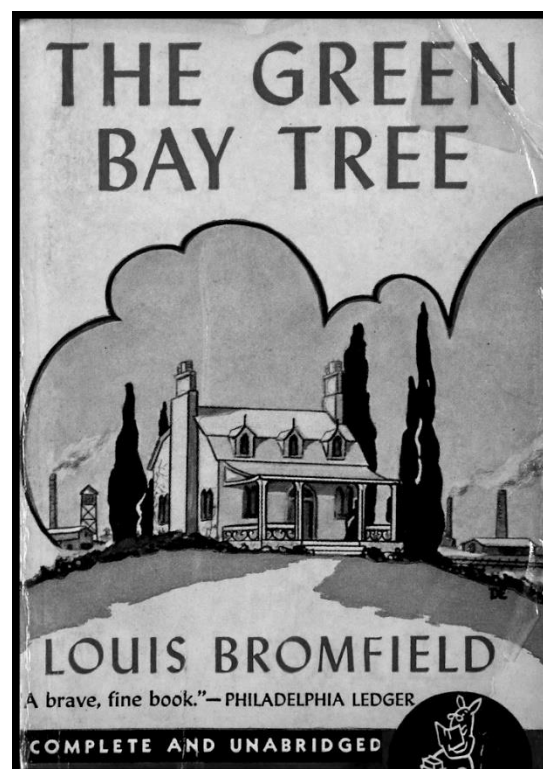
— Ellen Bromfield Geld

2024's Christmas Holiday Candlelight Tours of Louis Bromfield's Big House at Malabar Farm will be held on Friday and Saturday, December 6, 7, 13, and 14 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm; and on Sunday, December 8 and 15 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Volunteers will be stationed around the house to answer any questions, and cookies and warm drinks will be served in the heated garage at the end of the tour. We look forward to seeing you there.

One Hundred Years Ago

October 2024, marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of Louis Bromfield's first novel *The Green Bay Tree*. *The Green Bay Tree* was the first in a series of four related novels that Bromfield wrote exploring the themes of family life and tradition in America during the tumultuous early years of the twentieth century. *The Green Bay Tree* was a bestseller, launching its author on a stellar thirty year literary career.

Bromfield gave an overarching title of "Escape" to the four volumes, which included *Possession* (1925), *Early Autumn* (the 1926), and *A Good Woman* (1927). *Early Autumn* earned Louis Bromfield the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1927.



A Much Appreciated Gift From a Member of the Bromfield Family

On August 29 the Malabar Farm Foundation received a letter from Melanie S. Read, co-manager of Fanwood Foundation-West of West Point Utah, announcing a donation of \$2,500 to the Foundation. Melanie is the daughter of Hope Bromfield Stevens, the second daughter of Louis Bromfield. Melanie and the Fanwood Foundation have been very generous over the years in aiding The Malabar Farm Foundation in its mission of preserving the legacy of her grandfather and his Big House at Malabar Farm. Below are some of the words from her letter.

To me Louis Bromfield wasn't just a famous farmer and writer; he was my grandfather. . . . I want the full amount of the Fanwood Foundation donation to go to paying for restoring the items [art and artifacts] in the Big House I feel are so important . . .



The above winter scene of Louis Bromfield's Big House at Malabar Farm, one of the most popular pieces of artwork in the Big House, was painted by Melanie's mother Hope in the 1940s. Several years ago it was fully restored (including the expert repair of a large whole in the canvas), cleaned and framed by the Inner-Museum Conservation Association located in Cleveland, Ohio (ICA).

This painting is one of more than 40 oil paintings in the Big House restored, cleaned, and preserved through the ICA courtesy of the Malabar Farm Foundation and the generous support of Melanie Read and the Fanwood Foundation-West. As of this date there are an additional 90 artifacts and artworks slated for restoration and preservation in the Big House collection.

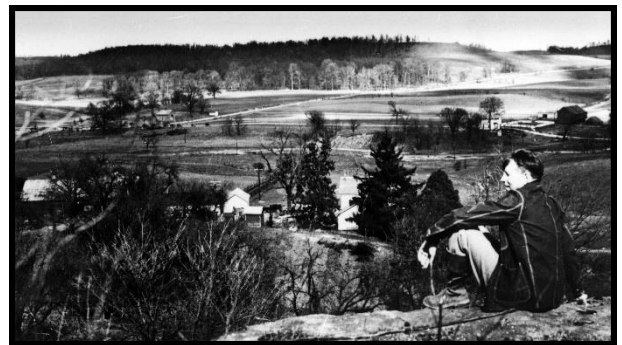
Non-Profit Recognition

On October 3, 2024, Malabar Farm Foundation Board of Trustees member David Crawford, and Foundation Newsletter editor Thomas Bachelder attended a breakfast sponsored by the Richland Area Chamber of Economic Development at the Deer Ridge Golf Club.

The purpose of the breakfast was to recognize local small businesses and non-profit organizations who have been nominated for the **2024 Small Business of the Year Award** and the **2024 Non-Profit of the Year Award**.

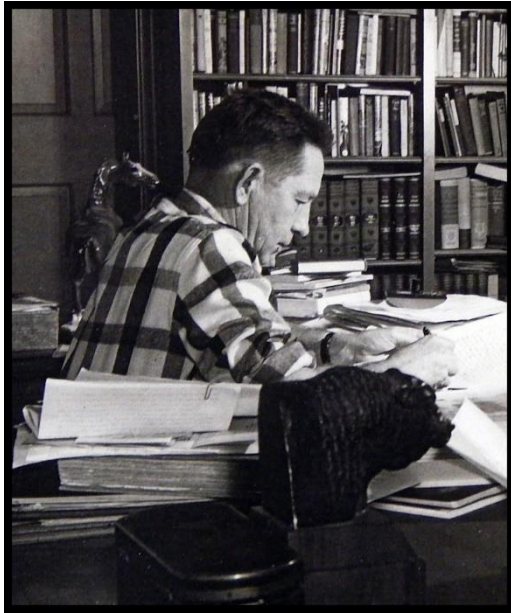


The winners of the **2024 Small Business of the Year Award** and the **2024 Non-Profit of the Year Award** will be announced at a luncheon on December 10, 2024, at the Kehoe Center in Shelby, Ohio. The Malabar Farm Foundation is honored to have been nominated for this award.



Louis Bromfield overlooking his newly acquired Malabar Farm, 1939

In 1945, Louis Bromfield, writing of his Big House, stated that, "Perhaps one day it will belong to the State, together with the hills, valleys and woods of Malabar Farm." It is the mission of the Malabar Farm Foundation to see that Louis Bromfield's wish, along with his legacy of literature and agricultural conservation, will continue to be realized today, tomorrow, and in the future.



**Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future:
How One Local College is Opening Young Minds**
by Paul Sukys

In a past issue of the Malabar Farm Newsletter, we explored a 1953 article by Louis Bromfield titled “The Shame of Our Colleges” in which he chastised America’s colleges for failing to provide students with a well-rounded educational experience. Bromfield’s analysis identified three causes for this failure: (1) a curriculum designed to produce job seekers, rather than critical thinkers; (2) a lack of discipline at home and at school; and (3) faculty members intent on indoctrinating students rather than encouraging debate.

As it turns out Bromfield was correct about this trend as we can see in today’s headlines. We read about students rioting over issues, such as the conflict in Israel, about which they seem to have little historical or cultural knowledge. Moreover, this same generation of students seems to be overly sensitive when things in the political arena or on their own campuses don’t go their way. Witness the apparent emotional breakdown among many college students in 2016, when the presidential election did not turn out the way they wanted.

Or, more specifically, look at an incident chronicled by George Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt in *The Atlantic* in an article titled, “The Coddling of the American Mind” which reports how law students at Harvard requested law professors to no longer use phrases like “violate the law” because some students are distressed by the word “violate.”¹

Ironically, it would not take much for our colleges and universities to reverse this trend or, at least, give students a chance to think for themselves and, perhaps, be aware

of the philosophical and historical roots that form the basis of the society in which they live. Not surprisingly all it takes is for an institution to re-introduce students to some traditional courses that would familiarize them with the great ideas of the past and teach them how to think critically about such ideas.

Fortunately, we have an example of such an effort in our own backyard. Recently, reversing a trend that saw a de-emphasis on humanities courses, North Central State College has added two humanities courses to the curriculum of its baccalaureate degree program in registered nursing. One of these courses, Western Philosophy, introduces students to the ideas that form the foundation of the cultural and political environment in which they live. The other, Ethics, provides them with the critical thinking tools they will need as they grapple with the complex moral issues of the 21st century.

Both courses are especially important for nurses, who, as members of the health care profession, face a changing world in which advances in medicine will affect how they deal with patients, those patients’ families, and their own colleagues at all levels of the profession.

The course in Ethics introduces students to several ethical theories, including utilitarian ethics, rational ethics, and theological ethics, which will give them insight into how to unravel the complexities of the issues they will face on the job. Similarly, the course in Western Philosophy will help them see how physicians, researchers, legislators, fellow nurses, and, at times, even entire societies, have dealt with similar problems in the past.

In addition to including these two humanities courses in the nursing baccalaureate degree program, in order to educate the whole person, the College has been engaging for years in a continuing Outcomes Assessment of all programs designed to measure how successful the institution has been in cultivating the students’ technical skills, professional skills, and experiential skills.

All in all, by moving in this direction, North Central State College has taken a commendable step toward solving this problem. More importantly, for those of us who are part of the Malabar Farm Foundation, the College is honoring the legacy of Louis Bromfield who, as we know, was a pragmatic man who believed that the simplest and most direct remedy for any problem is to uncover the most down-to-earth, practical solution available. Let’s face it, teaching students how to think and talk about the world in which they live is just about as down-to-earth and practical as one can get.

1 - George Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt, “The Coddling of the American Mind” *The Atlantic*, September 2015, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/the-coddling-of-the-amerocan-mind/399356/>.



Here Is An Opportunity To Support Malabar Farm Through The Malabar Farm Foundation

Richland Gives is an annual online giving event hosted by the Richland County Foundation in Mansfield, Ohio. The event encourages community members to donate to local nonprofits through an online platform. Since its inception in 2015, **Richland Gives** has raised nearly \$2 million for various charitable organizations in Richland County. The event aims to provide much-needed operating revenue to local charities and enhance the quality of life in the community through strategic philanthropy and community leadership. **The Malabar Farm Foundation** participates in **Richland Gives** each year asking for community members' support to help meet the mission of the Foundation.

This year **Richland Gives** is set for December 3 from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. EST – *Early giving is possible beginning November 18.* To learn more about this event go to www.richlandgives.mightycause.com/

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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:
Malabar Farm Foundation
P.O. Box 551
Lucas, Ohio 44843



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