



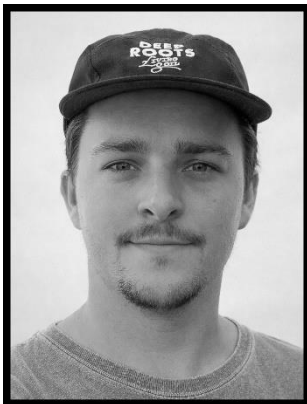
The Malabar Farm News

A Publication of the Malabar Farm Foundation

Spring 2026

The Malabar Farm Foundation Welcomes Eric Bishop as a New Member On Its Board Of Trustees

Eric is a co-founder of *Deep Roots Living Soil*, a brand under *Urban Organics*, his family's Ohio-based organic composting company.



As a second-generation leader, Eric helped build *Deep Roots* as an extension of the legacy brand *Sweet Peet*, operating a composting facility and regenerative worm farm focused on soil biology and living soil products. His work is driven by a simple goal: to help people grow more nutritious food by improving the soil beneath it. Welcome to the Board Eric.

Four Stars for the Malabar Farm Foundation

The Malabar Farm Foundation was recently awarded a Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator. This distinction places the Foundation among the highest-performing nonprofits nationally in terms of financial stewardship, governance, and transparency. The strongest contributors to the rating lie in the Foundation's financial health and efficiency.

With a program expense ratio of 80%, the Foundation directs most of its expenditures toward mission-related activities, a benchmark widely recognized as indicative of

effective nonprofit management. Equally notable is the Foundation's liabilities-to-assets ratio of 0%, which reflects exceptional fiscal stability and a conservative financial posture that minimizes organizational risk.

Together, these indicators affirm that the Foundation not only allocates its resources in alignment with its mission but also maintains a financial structure capable of sustaining its work over the long term.

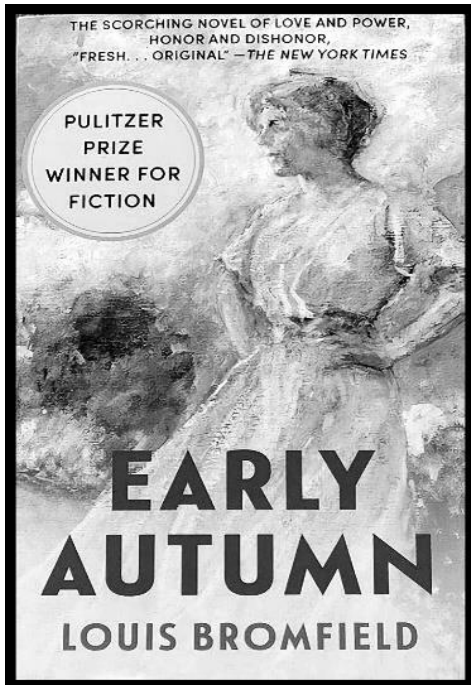
Malabar Farm's Maple Syrup Festival Cut Short

March 7 and 8, the first weekend of Malabar Farm's 2026 Maple Syrup Festival, was a resounding success. 1,643 guests toured the Sugar Shack to learn about modern maple syrup production, and many more guests enjoyed native American and pioneer sugar maple demonstrations. Tours of Louis Bromfield's Big House topped 400. With nearly perfect weather Sunday was especially busy.



Unfortunately, the good weather didn't hold for week two. Severe storms and high winds uprooted several trees in the Park, and power, lost on Friday, wasn't restored until the following Tuesday, forcing cancellation of the festival for the entire second weekend.

**-100 Years of Excellence-
Celebrating Louis Bromfield's
Pulitzer Prize Winning 1926 Novel
*Early Autumn***



In late April 1927, Louis Bromfield received a letter, excerpted below, from Frank Fackenthal, a Secretary for the Trustees of Columbia University.

I take very great pleasure in notifying you, in confidence, that the prize of one thousand dollars (\$1000) established by the Will of the late Joseph Pulitzer for the American novel published during the year 1926 which shall best present the whole atmosphere of American life, and the highest standards of American manners and manhood has been awarded to *Early Autumn* ... Public announcement of these prizes will not be made public until Tuesday morning May 3.

Early Autumn - A Story of a Lady, Louis Bromfield's Pulitzer Prize winning third novel, was published one hundred years ago this year, and like his two novels that preceded it, was a bestseller.

Early Autumn tells the story of tensions and conflicts within the world of inherited wealth that is the Pentland family of Durham, Massachusetts. Beneath a facade of Victorian mores tenaciously clung to from former days, the family lives a life of hypocrisy, devoid of any substance, the men effete, the women mere poseurs.

You can find the latest edition of *Early Autumn*, including an introduction by Malabar Farm Foundation Board member Thomas Bachelder at the Foundation's website store at www.malabarfarm.org.

A Necessary Replacement

A tour of the Big House at Malabar Farm includes the opportunity to step into a giant time capsule dedicated to the life and times of world famous author and renowned conservationist Louis Bromfield. Nearly everything in the house is original — from the wallpaper, the furniture and lamps, the thousands of books, to the 1940s and 1950s *Life* magazines that still bear Louis's mailing label.

Among the few things that couldn't be preserved were the home's much trod upon rugs and carpets. The only remaining original carpet in the house was the badly worn and in places threadbare wall-to-wall blue wool carpeting in Mary Bromfield's bedroom. Unfortunately time and aging finally made it advisable to replace that carpet.

Thanks to Park Manager Matt Rogers, Kastran Karpets of Ontario, Ohio, and a \$3,250 grant from the Malabar Farm Foundation, new carpeting was installed in Mary's room in January. Matt deserves special thanks for making sure that the replacement carpet almost perfectly matches the original carpet in both texture and color.



1940



2026

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

— Louis Bromfield, 1945

Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future: The Imperfect Prophet

By Paul Sukys, Professor Emeritus
North Central State College

This column is based on the idea that Louis Bromfield had an unerring sense of the problems that faced his era, and a remarkably accurate view of the future. Of course, with hindsight, we can see when Bromfield's predictions were accurate and when they fell short. So, we can easily praise him for predicting such things as the formation of the European Union, the threat of an extensive war in Indochina, and the rise of Brazil as a new economic power. However, we can also criticize him for failing to see the assassination of one President, the resignation of another and the rise of the Islamic States in the Middle East.

A more productive practice, however, might be to apply Bromfield's political and economic principles, as expressed in his fiction and non-fiction, to contemporary political issues to see if those principles might guide us as we wrestle with current problems. Based on this premise, let's consider what Bromfield might say about the current crisis in the Middle East.

Initially, Bromfield tackles the issue of war in his first novel, *The Green Bay Tree*. In the climactic scenes of that novel, five characters express opposition to war in general, and the Great War in particular, indicating that Bromfield might share a similar aversion to war. These characters include Lily Shane, her sister Irene (later known as Sister Monica), the Ukrainian union organizer, Krylenko, the French priest, Fr. Dupont, and an unnamed German officer, who states famously, "There is blood on my hands. I killed today, . . . by shooting and stabbing. I assure you it gave me no pleasure. I should doubtless have loved the men I killed. I am helpless."

After The Great War, Bromfield's position shifted dramatically when, in the wake of the Munich Accords, he preached that some forms of war were justifiable. In a tract titled, *England: A Dying Oligarchy*, he blames the English ruling class for surrendering to the demands of Hitler, a failing that led to the Second World War. Moreover, Bromfield unapologetically accuses the English nobility of selfishly failing to act, not only in Munich, but also while the anti-fascist rebels were being defeated in Spain, while Mussolini's army occupied Abyssinia, while the people of Manchuria were

massacred, and while China was vanquished, all situations in which military force would have stopped these incursions and served as a deterrent to the German threats at Munich.

Bromfield's views on war shift again, when in 1949 he abandons the idea that national leaders must intervene in situations like those in Spain, Abyssinia, Manchuria and China. This is made clear when he permits his name, along with that of Pearl Buck, to appear on the cover of a pamphlet titled, *New Evidence of the Militarization of America*, published by the National Council Against Conscription (NCAC) an organization that opposed the militaristic philosophy that "the best way to insure peace" is through a strong military. More specifically, the NCAC, opposed the "military doctrine that the President should lead the nation to war against a potential enemy to keep it from striking the first blow without waiting for a congressional declaration of war."

Were these Bromfield's last words on the subject it would be clear that he would oppose the current hostilities, since they began with a preventive strike of the type that the NCAC condemns. However, in his book, *A New Pattern for a Tired World*, Bromfield characterizes the threat of atomic war as "the mightiest problem with which the world has ever been faced." This would seem to place him on the side of those who support the current American intervention in the Middle East, since the purpose of that intervention was to prevent the Iranians from creating weapons that would ignite an atomic war.

So, in typical fashion, Bromfield leaves us with a mixed legacy in *A New Pattern*. In addition to warning about the threat of atomic war, he also chastises Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, both of whom approved "vast expenditures on atomic warfare in the form of new atomic and guided missiles," knowing full well that such a program could lead to "the end of civilization" and "possibly the virtual extinction of mankind." This would seem to place Bromfield on the side of those who oppose the war.

Still, given the changing complexion of Bromfield's attitude toward war, our question remains unanswered. That, however, may be the point. Rather than providing a solution, Bromfield clarifies the complexities of a concept and, in that way, encourages us to seek the answer not in conflict or censorship, but in conversation and compromise.

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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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
- Friend** - \$100 / year
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