

MALABAR FARM NEWS

The Malabar Farm Foundation

February 2019

Edition 11, Volume 3



In The Spotlight

Pictured Above: Jeremy Lucas with Bob Berry

Giving Back to Malabar Farm – LED Light Donation

Jeremy Lucas, owner of NuGen LED Solutions & NuGen Outdoor Enterprises, LLC has donated and installed LED lighting in the interior and exterior of the entire Big House, Pugh Cabin and the carriage house. Jeremy is originally from Lucas, Ohio and now lives and has his business in Bellville, Ohio. Jeremy has been solving lighting issues since 2005 and before starting his own company, was the supervisor of operations including outdoor/billboard lighting in a two-state area. Now, Jeremy's nationwide company is a solutions provider for multiple utility companies and manages the products and installation of LED lighting for business and residential customers.

Jeremy has fond memories of Malabar Farm State Park from his early years, coming to the park regularly. He remembers that when he was just joining the work force as a teen, he was able to come to Malabar Farm to walk the trails and attend the various events at Malabar for free. Jeremy decided that when he could, he wanted to give something back to Malabar Farm. Jeremy's uncle is a friend of Bob Berry, Vice - President of the Malabar Farm Foundation. His uncle introduced him to Bob and Jeremy extended the generous offer to donate and install LED lighting in the Big House, Pugh Cabin, and the carriage house through the Malabar Farm Foundation. After receiving the go ahead from Malabar Farm State Park staff, the project began.

Now, anyone visiting any of these "jewels" at Malabar Farm will be treated to a fresh look with the brightening effect that these LED bulbs have provided.

(Cont. page 2)

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

Patrick A. Nutt, The Last Gardener at Malabar Farm *

Patrick Nutt was born and raised in Hendon, England near London. In 1948 he was drafted into the Royal Air Force where he served two years in the 15th Light Anti-Aircraft Squadron. In 1950 he left the RAF and took a student internship at RHS Garden Wisley. After graduating from Wisley in 1951 he commenced study at the world renowned Royal Botanical Gardens Kew in Richmond, England. It was at Kew Gardens that he first experienced water lily propagation and maintenance, something that would influence him for a lifetime.

In 1953 Louis Bromfield advertised through the Gardener's Chronicle for a second gardener to work under the head gardener, David Rimmer at Malabar Farm, Lucas, Ohio. Patrick Nutt immigrated to the United States and took the job at Malabar Farm. When Nutt arrived at Malabar Farm, David Rimmer got a promotion as the Farm business manager as he was very good in business matters and Nutt became the head gardener at Malabar Farm.

Patrick Nutt had a remarkable memory until his death and recalled many events and facts about his time at Malabar Farm working for Louis Bromfield. Nutt considered Louis Bromfield a "remarkable person".

Nutt remembered working closely with Bob Huge, the Farm manager who made sure Nutt had plenty of manure on the fields to grow his vegetables. Nutt also felt that irrigation was essential for successful vegetable crops and built ponds at Malabar Farm. Bob Huge told Nutt that if he continued to build ponds for irrigation, the farm would eventually be under water!

(Cont. page 2)

The Malabar Farm Foundation

Contact us @

Website: www.malabarfarm.org

Call: 419-892-2784

E-mail: mffspecialevents@yahoo.com

Address: 4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas, Oh 44843

In the Spotlight – (from page 1) Jeremy is especially glad that his LED light donations are providing brighter light for Louis Bromfield's Pulitzer Prize which hangs in Bromfield's study and one of the Grandma Moses paintings that hangs upstairs in the Big House. Jeremy reports that LED lighting emits neither ultraviolet rays nor intense heat which can damage items like these over time when older lighting measures are not upgraded.

Jeremy has studied the history of Malabar Farm and Louis Bromfield and knows that Bromfield was a great conservationist. Jeremy has performed an energy audit and calculated the approximate wattage and cost savings by switching all the lights to LED. By installing LED lighting in these three buildings, the wattage reduction is over 5,200 watts and the cost savings will be pleasantly measurable, including the lack of routine maintenance. A 5-Year Warranty is also in place for this project as the average duty rating is 50,000 hours of use per product.

Jeremy has three children who also enjoy visiting Malabar Farm regularly. The Malabar Farm Foundation wishes to thank Jeremy for this extremely generous donation to Malabar Farm State Park through the Foundation. Come and see the new look at Malabar Farm!

Looking Back – (from page 1) * **The Story of Patrick Nutt, written by Bob Berry, V.P. of the Malabar Farm Foundation is a compilation of stories gleaned from letters written and articles sent from Patrick Nutt to close friends, Jack & Barb Hill of Hill's Water Gardens who lived near Malabar Farm**

Nutt noted that the vegetable stand was built next to the Malabar Farm Restaurant (Malabar Inn) in 1954. Nutt recalled that not only was the vegetable stand a great success, so was the packing and storage house built right across the road from the vegetable stand. Nutt reported that the following vegetables were raised from seed and seedlings at Malabar Farm: sweet corn (as high as an elephant's eye), several varieties of tomatoes, early potatoes, peas, string beans, peppers, onions, scallions, asparagus, lettuce, endive, celery, lima beans, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnips, summer squash, winter squash, pumpkins, okra, and floral crops.

As mentioned before, Nutt felt that irrigation was greatly important in the growing of the vegetables and that not only manure on the fields prior to planting was essential but that fertilization of the vegetable crops using a product called FERTILIZE during production was also a key to the crop's success. The FERTILIZE was pumped from Gorman Rupp pumps that were manufactured in Mansfield, Ohio. Nutt explained that FERTILIZE was around long before Miracle Grow. Surplus hay was used to mulch the vegetables for weed control and it also conserved moisture. The mulching was done several times during the growth cycles of the vegetable plants.

Nutt recalled that vegetables were not only sold from the vegetable stand but also to the Leland Hotel in Mansfield and the Mansfield General Hospital. He also reported that vegetables were sold to Christ Patak's market store in Mansfield who was a charter member of the Mansfield Men's Garden Club. Nutt reported that "we all ate like kings" including the many guests at Malabar. He reported that this was especially good for him after coming off six years of rationing before coming to the United States.

Flowers were provided in the Big House at Malabar as decorations year round. All flowers were grown on the Farm and in the greenhouse at Malabar. There was even a water garden in the greenhouse, something Patrick Nutt had a real love for. Nutt recalled that flowers grown at Malabar were used at Bromfield's funeral and that Nutt helped dig the burial spot for Bromfield.

Nutt recalled that Louis Bromfield played a large part in the Muskingum Watershed, the entity that created dams for flood control throughout Ohio. Nutt, along with staff from Malabar Farm planted thousands of trees on seven of the Muskingum Watershed properties including what is now Pleasant Hill Lake Park. After Bromfield passed away, Nutt found out that there was an opening for a gardener at Longwood Gardens in Kenneth Square, Chester County, Pennsylvania and he took the position in 1957.

Nutt had an outstanding horticultural career at Longwood Gardens and retired in 1995 after 38 years of service. While at Longwood Gardens, Nutt expanded the water lily collections, built collections of palms, cycads, bromeliads, and many other tropical plants.

Patrick Nutt was a world renowned horticulturalist and waterlily expert and is credited with the hybridization of the V. Longwood water lily, also known as the Longwood F1 Victoria Waterlily. Nutt distributed seeds of water lilies all over the world so others could enjoy their beauty and was known to influence thousands of horticulturalists, both professional and amateur. Patrick Nutt died on June 4, 2015 at the age of 85.

Looking Back (from page 2)

1956: Pat Nutt holding pumpkins grown at Malabar Farm and The Malabar Farm Produce stand on a busy weekend

Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future - The Unwavering, Objective Morality of Louis Bromfield

By Paul Sukys, Professor Emeritus, North Central State College

In many of his novels, Louis Bromfield appears to play the role of a moral pessimist (or at the very least, a moral relativist). Typically, his morally upright characters fail to achieve their goals and, as a result, evil seems to triumph. In the *Green Bay Tree*, for example, despite her opposition to the industrialization of the Town, Julia Shane sells most of her land to the politicians in order to survive and consequently the train depot she opposes is eventually built on her property.

Still, even in that case, to paint Bromfield as a moral pessimist or a moral relativist is to miss the true nature of his moral system. Bromfield is neither a pessimist nor a relativist. Instead, he is an objectivist who believes in universal justice, honesty, and integrity, and who is convinced that virtue is its own reward. Bromfield's world is a place in which the good guys win. However, this does not mean that their victory is immediate, or even noticeable. Such a victory comes with the knowledge of a battle fought for the right reasons, with morally correct motives and with a clear conscience. Thus, in the *Green Bay Tree*, although the politicians get their train station, life in the Town is more dangerous, less sustaining, and more polluted than the life Julia sought to preserve.

Sometimes the evil that Bromfield addresses is too perverse to treat with such subtlety. Bromfield became acutely aware of this during the 1930s as he observed the rise of Nazi Germany and the inability or the unwillingness of the Allies to stop Hitler. Bromfield got a chance to address this issue when in 1943 he was commissioned to write a short novel for an anthology entitled *The Ten Commandments: Ten Short Novels of Hitler's War Against the Moral Code*.

This commission resulted in a story known as "*Thou Shall Not Covet*." In this short novel, Bromfield tells the story of an unnamed narrator who meets several Germans at a Swiss ski resort in the mid-1930s. By the end of the story, each character has met a fate that fits his moral choices. Heintzlemann, the leader the Fuhrer's special guard, is executed by his fellow Nazis; Baron von Hagen, a German industrialist who financed the Nazis is murdered by the people he helped to power; Oberregierungsrat Moll, a German judge, who stands aside as Hitler rises to power, succumbs to a broken heart, apparently induced by the memory of his own early cowardice. The underlying message here is not meant for Heintzlemann, von Hagen, or Judge Moll. Instead, Bromfield's message is meant for those back home that, even in 1943, missed the nature of the evil they faced in the Nazis. In "*Thou Shall Not Covet*," Bromfield argues that many Americans have lost their sense of a universal morality based on justice, honesty, and integrity. This is what Bromfield means when in he writes, "It was not the pious, smug, stupidity of so many Englishmen who contributed to bringing disaster but just the plain innocence of that American kind which cannot believe that there are people as villainous as von Hagen or as fanatic as Hitler or as depraved as Heintzlemann."

Bromfield would later go on to address such issues in *A Few Brass Tacks*, *A New Pattern for a Tired World*, and in various articles, speeches and radio broadcasts in the 1940s and 50s. The enemy changed after the defeat of the Nazis, but the evil still persisted in many forms, including Marxism, the bureaucracy, the welfare state, an ineffective United Nations, the military-industrial complex, and so on. Bromfield never lost sight of his moral compass and although he may have called it Jeffersonian democracy, natural law, or a love of freedom, justice, and integrity, that message was always the same. In the closing pages of "*Thou Shall Not Covet*," he makes that messages clear when he writes, "Perhaps, after all, there is a law rewarding good and punishing evil. Perhaps, after all there is, in the end, a universal decency." As with much of Bromfield's work, it is a message worth remembering in the New Year.

THE UV PROTECTIVE BLINDS PROJECT IN THE BIG HOUSE

In November, 2018 new ultraviolet protective blinds were installed in the Big House on 89 windows, some that were not previously covered. The old window coverings were 17 years old and past their protective life. The new blinds will help to protect the many pieces of art and artifacts that have been restored and are on display in the Big House. A big thanks to Fred Malone and Tom Bachelder, both Malabar Farm Foundation board members who worked on the project.

Malabar Farm Foundation
4050 Bromfield Rd.
Lucas, Ohio 44843

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019: (February – May)

February – Winter Hike for Health – February 9 @ 8am - 12 pm

Big House Valentine's Bash – February 14 & 15 (6 pm), February 16 (4 pm & 7 pm)

Experience the Great American Songbook & a 5-course meal in the Big House. Ticket includes a guided tour of the Big House 1 hour before your event.

Preregistration is required. Call 419-892-2929.

March – Annual Maple Syrup Festival - March 2, 3, 9 & 10 @ 12Noon – 4 pm

Experience the sugar camp with historic demonstrations, walk-through Big House tours, food, & maple products to taste & buy. Cash is recommended. Horse drawn wagon rides to the sugar camp – donations to the horse group are appreciated.

April – Mohican Wildlife Weekend – April 26 – 28

"Pick your Path" with activities that promote outdoor fun and nature. Check out www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com for all participating locations and activities.

Visit www.malabarfarm.org for Malabar Farm's activities.

Most activities are free!