

Malabar Farm Field Trip

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Photographs by George Cowmeadow Bauman
and Genie Hoster

Eighteen Aldus members and their guests met at Malabar Farm near Mansfield, home of Pulitzer-prize winning author Louis Bromfield.

We first enjoyed a terrific lunch at the Malabar Farm Restaurant, which is located in an early 19th century brick home acquired by Bromfield in 1941.



Paul Watkins and
Kassie Rose



Bill and Carol Logue



After lunch, we walked downstairs to the roadside farm market where many of us bought lots of fresh-grown produce. The market was started by Bromfield in the 1940s to sell the high quality, environmentally friendly produce grown at Malabar Farm.



RIGHT: Marilyn Logue and Clyde Dilley "hoofed it" across the road from the restaurant to the house tour.



LEFT: swallow nests at the Visitor Center



We then proceeded “across the road” to the Visitor’s Center, then to the main house, where we enjoyed a guided tour Bromfield’s 32-room home.

Our tour guide related numerous anecdotes about Bromfield, some funny, others serious, and a few just a tad risqué. The house is furnished with original paintings, French antique furniture, custom wall paper, and many of Bromfield’s personal belongings. It is preserved as he left it in 1956.



Bromfield had a propensity for Boxer dogs, which roamed throughout the house.



After the house tour, we boarded a farm wagon and were taken over the crazy quilt of fields planted with a variety of Midwestern-type crops. Bromfield was a proponent of sustainable farming techniques, and Malabar Farm, now the only working farm in the Ohio State Park system, and continues as a landmark showcase for this agrarian practice which Bromfield brought to the public's attention through many of his books.

LEFT: Bromfield's bed is surrounded by shelves filled with books, many written by contemporary authors of his acquaintance. BELOW LEFT: Bromfield's grave is in a small cemetery at Malabar Farm.



ABOVE: George Bauman and Jay Hoster found another George Bauman's grave in the cemetery.



We were amazed and amused by the myriad of barn swallows chasing about over the fields and around our wagon. We stopped at the cemetery where Bromfield, and many other folks who lived in the area in an earlier time, were buried. Near the end of the wagon tour, the gigantic tree featured in the movie *Shawshank Redemption*, filmed in the area, was pointed out to us.



Many of us talked about returning to Malabar Farm again soon to enjoy another fabulous meal, to take photographs of the superbly preserved natural wonders around the property, and to enjoy the many activities offered at the park including horseback riding, hay wagon rides, hiking, touring the farm and house, and in winter, cross-country skiing.

TOP LEFT: Many folks were out on horseback while we were on the wagon tour. LEFT: You may have seen this tree in the movie *Shawshank Redemption*. Our guide pointed it out to us near the end of the wagon tour.

