



## Homestead Happenings - May 2026



Above: From a local 1940s Brevard paper. Courtesy of Shellie Waxman.

One of the first crops grown by the Field family in the late 1860s was sugar cane and it initially was the most profitable crop, bringing 35cents a gallon. They produced 800 gallons one year! We still have cooper's tools in our packing house used to make the wooden barrels.

January's freeze took a toll on our sugar cane, but there are signs of life. Situated near the sloughs, rebound is evident, with the ratoons growing taller and greener every week.

Below: The Field's sugarcane grinder. Courtesy of Field Manor Foundation.



This memory was recently shared by Volney Tinsley, of Brevard, NC. Volney's aunt dated Ed Field in the 1930s and 1940s and the Tinsleys lived in Indianola from 1949-1951:

"Dad took me over one day so I could watch Mr. Fields make molasses. His sugar cane was ripe & he was feeding it through a press that squeezed out the juice. Oh my did it smell good. He took a cup & caught some of the juice for me to drink. The juice they collected went into a large cast iron pot over a large wood fire. The juice was cooked down until it turned into dark molasses. My lord times were tough in Florida, but somehow we loved it."

Below: Lena and Louise Hutchison, daughters of Betty Lou Field Hutchison, sitting atop discarded sugarcane in the late 1940s at Field Manor. Photo courtesy of Shellie Waxman, granddaughter of Betty Lou Field.





On Saturday, May 2, 2026, Field Manor hosted a pop-up with Jim Harvey and family, where they shared history by giving away Harvey's Groves citrus labels. The 90 year old labels, iconic for Brevard County, drew close to 300 visitors to Field Manor. Folks were grateful for the opportunity to talk about such an important part of Brevard history and to share memories of a by-gone era that truly defined this area for over a hundred years.

We thank Jim for choosing us for this event and we hope to do it again soon!





Of course the labels were a huge hit, but so was this wind-up toy. It shows Larry Harvey in the hat, Jim Harvey in the center, Mr. Harvey in the back, and Mrs. Harvey out front taking care of business.

Click the link below, which takes you to our YouTube page to see the toy in action.

[Harvey's Groves wind-up toy](#)

## Forever Florida

For decades, the Allen Broussard Conservancy, aka Forever Florida, in St. Cloud, shared their deep commitment to environmental conservation by offering ecotourism adventures including horseback activities, over-night camping, and one of Florida's first zip lines, as a way to generate money for the organization. We thank Margaret Broussard and her dedicated staff and family for sharing the roughly 4,700 acres with many of us. As all things change, we wish Margaret a happy retirement and thank her for her passion and knowledge. We'll miss the fieldtrips, but we are thankful for the experiences and memories!

Mrs. Broussard was kind enough to donate this wonderful painting that hung in their check-in area and dining hall to Field Manor. Swallow-tail Kites are most often seen in Florida in the summertime and are the mascot of Forever Florida.



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Field Manor Foundation, Inc.

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