

Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking
Discussions



David Schmidt

Educator

David Schmidt is currently the curator of the Florida Civilian Conservation Corps Museum at Highland Hammock State Park in Sebring. Before that, he taught for 37 years focusing on United States History, Geography, and special education. David holds two master's degrees from Ball State University in Special Education and United States History and did additional study at Michigan State University, Indiana University, and Bowling Green State University.

Programs Available

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Florida: State Parks and More

In his book, *Rightful Heritage*, Douglas Brinkley concludes that “few [New Deal] programs would shine brighter” than the Civilian Conservation Corps. During the presence of the CCC in Florida, from 1933 until 1942, there were over 70 camps around the state with a total of just under 50,000 young men working on projects. This informative program presents an overview of the CCC and the projects, from the Keys to Panhandle, that were accomplished during this historic period.

The Legacy of Franklin Roosevelt's WPA in Florida

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was one of FDR's most wide-ranging, yet controversial programs. Many saw it as a “make work” program that did not accomplish its goals—the acronym was derided as “We Piddle Around.” The evidence indicates that the program was far more successful and, even today, Floridians enjoy the buildings and constructions created by the WPA. This program views the WPA and focuses on the still existing projects.

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Program Format:

- In-person
- Virtual

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