



GARY PINNELL/STAFF

Candace Nolz of Avon Park says hello to Poser, a Florida pine snake that occasionally poses as a rattle-snake. Her handler, Ed Cunningham of Archbold Biological Station, looks on.

# CCC Festival returns to Sebring

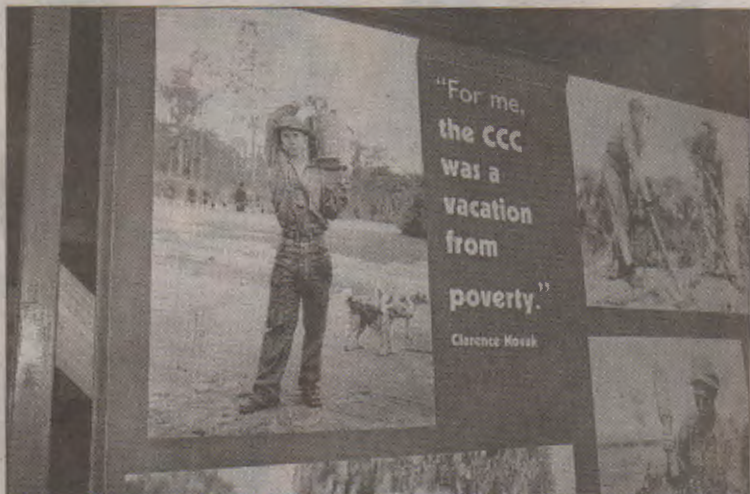
Event features blacksmithing, spinning, painting, creatures of the wild

BY GARY PINNELL  
Highlands Today

SEBRING — The legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the young Depression-era men who built Highlands Hammock State Park and thousands of other buildings and bridges around the nation, was celebrated Saturday.

Returning CCC alums, now in their 90s, were welcomed home at the state park. Curator David J.W. Schmidt presented a history of New Deal programs on the museum stage.

Special guest David Lutken, who wrote "Woody Sez: the Life and Music of Woody Guthrie," brought back the spirit of the Dust Bowl Days of the 1930s through the words and music of songs like "Deportee," "Bound



The Civilian Conservation Corps was home to thousands of American boys before World War II. Some later became famous, like Marlon Brando, Lloyd Bridges, Raymond Burr, Robert Mitchum and Chill Wills. Frank Sinatra also joined, but very quickly went over the hill.

for Glory," and "This Land Is Your Land," which got the crowd clapping.

Florida folk bands Back Porch Revival, Dusty Road Rangers, Larry Magnum and Jackson Creek also played.

The event also featured blacksmithing, spinning, painting, and reptiles and other creatures of the wild.

gpinnell@highlandstoday.com  
(863) 386-5828