

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Volume 7 Issue 2

September to December 2012

From the Staff

Calendar of Events

Here's What's Been Happening At YOUR Museum!

- **BOARD MEETINGS For 2013** : January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11
- **YOU ARE INVITED** : General Membership Meeting is Wednesday, February 13 at 6 P.M.

Museum Visitors

2006: 2,095
 2007: 3,527
 2008: 4,561
 2009: 5,804
 2010: 6,368
 2011: 7,131
 2012: 8,300

- ♦ DHFM welcomes new Board Members Tina Harbuck and Hollis Lathem
- ♦ Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction January 26: Enter your gumbo and make a donation for the silent auction.

As the year draws to an end, it is always a time of reflection. We are forever thankful to those first energetic volunteers and supporters who came together to create the Destin History & Fishing Museum which opened October 2005. Attendance has grown from 2,095 in 2006 to just over 8, 300 in 2012. New and interesting exhibits giving a glimpse into Destin's rich heritage are continually being created. This tremendous growth is due to the efforts of dedicated Museum Board Members, Business Partners, Volunteers, and Community.

As you prepare for the New Year, we hope you will include the Museum in your plans for support in some way....membership, as a volunteer in the museum or at one of our events, a tax deductible donation of any amount, artifacts, documents, pictures, or other items that help to tell the whole history of Destin, the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village".

This year, AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar with the help of community support, their amazingly hard-working staff, and dedication of Alan Laird, was able to donate more than \$9,000 to the Museum through its Annual Tin Cup Classic Golf Tournament and by allowing the museum to use their employee parking lot during the Destin Seafood Festival for a parking concession. Over the past six years, the Museum has raised more than \$29,000 through the generosity of these efforts and this year was the most successful year. AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar is committed to giving back to the community and the Museum appreciates this great business sponsor. Alan Laird has been a supporter of the Museum since its beginning in 2005.

September 16
 AJ's Tin Cup Classic
 Proceeds to Museum

October 5, 6 & 7
 Destin Seafood Festival
 Parking Concession & Harry T's Food Booth
 ** Museum Celebrated 7 Year Anniversary

October 24
 City of Destin Open House
 Museum Data at Community Center

October 25
 New Exhibits Grand Opening
 Featuring "Eden Reef" & the "Turpentine" Exhibits

December 9
 26th Annual
 Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade

January 26, 2013
 Annual Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction
 Destin Community Center
 11 AM to 2 PM

February 13
 Museum General Membership Meeting
 6 P.M.



This year's presentation from AJ's was made during the Destin Fishing Rodeo Awards Ceremony on November 3. Accepting the check from Alan Laird was Mike Long, Museum President and John Lefler, Museum treasurer.

New Exhibits Grand Opening Thursday, October 25, 2012 “Eden Reef “and “The Turpentine Industry Comes to Destin”

The Grand Opening of two new museum exhibits were enjoyed by guests with refreshments and a special guest speaker. Representatives from Bass Pro Shops and Henderson Beach State Park shared the opening of the beautiful “Eden Reef”, a recreation of a reef ecosystem. Fourth generation Panhandle resident Raymon Melvin with a sample of his collection of turpentine equipment explained the process of the industry and its beginnings in this area. He has been collecting turpentine and logging equipment for more than 40 years. Sharing his knowledge was a fitting tribute to the grand opening of the museum’s new turpentine exhibit.



Pioneers of Paradise

The Kelly Family

Written by Jean Melvin

In the early 1900s, Mr. J.R. Moody was one of the biggest land holders in Okaloosa County. The large stands of Florida pine in the area east of Destin (north of the present site of the Crab Trap) prompted him to set up a turpentine camp there. The man he sent to establish and oversee the camp was his employee Coleman L. Kelly. Coleman and Mattie May were married in 1933 in Bonifay. Coleman came from Bonifay, Florida to the area in 1934 to set up the turpentine camp. Soon after his arrival, the turpentine farmers were at work in the woods, hanging cups, chipping, dipping, hauling, "stilling" and doing all the other chores involved in changing pine sap into resin and turpentine so that it could go to market. Coleman also set about preparing a new home for his young family in this remote untamed land. His wife Mattie and sixteen month old son Canera Lee arrived at the turpentine village on the evening of January 20, 1935 during a very rare snow storm. Times were very hard. Often in lieu of wages, Mr. Moody would pay Coleman with deeds to parcels of land. This was the beginning of the Kelly family becoming one of the largest land owners in the County. Coleman and Mattie had five children: Canera Lee (1934), Bernarr (1935), Imogene (1936), and Carol (1947) and Cecelia. In 1937, Coleman bought land and built "The Little Store" which had three gas pumps, groceries, a restaurant and social area. That year on the north side of the highway (which was then called County Road 115) four rental cottages were built. The next year four more cottages and a small office were built. In 1939, Coleman went into the "Head" boat business having the "Martha Gene" built booking the boats out of "The Little Store". The boat was licensed by the Destin Turpentine Company headed by Coleman Kelly. When the "Martha-Gene" headed to the Gulf with paying passengers to fish, the event marked the beginning of a new era for the entire northwest Gulf waters. A new fishing and business dimension had been born. To enlarge the accommodations Coleman had the "Passway" built in Niceville in 1940. With World War II going on in Europe and the attack of Pearl Harbor, the deep-sea boats were kept at their moorings while waiting for the war to end. The "Passway" was sold in 1944 and the "Martha-Gene" in 1945. The first spurt of deep sea sport fishing had experienced a healthy birth, the idea had caught on. An era had opened, it closed for a few short years and then with many participants, returned in all its glory.



The Kelly Family

Circa Late 1940s or Early 1950s

Photo taken by Arturo's Studio

Standing: Bernarr and Imogene

Seated L-R: Mary, Canera Lee, Carol,
Mattie, Coleman, and Cecelia



Destin Seafood Festival—Museum Fundraisers



October 5, 6, & 7th, the Destin History and Fishing Museum provided two fundraising concessions for festival goers. An estimated 70,000 people came to the Destin Seafood Festival.

Alan Laird of AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar donated the use of his parking lot for a parking concession fundraiser. A \$10 per car donation was made to the museum with patrons receiving free coupons for the museum and AJ's. Museum volunteers directed cars and passed out coupons.

Dan Empson of Harry T's Restaurant set up a food booth serving fish tacos, sweet potato fries, nachos, tuna dip, and chicken fingers as well as soft drinks and beer. Harry T's cooks worked the cooking line with museum volunteers taking orders.

The fundraiser brought in \$12, 162 to the Museum.



Community Outreach

- ◆ September 7: DHFM is a business partner with the Destin Middle School setting up guest speakers for the club's monthly meetings. Kathy Blue and John Brashears spoke at the group's first meeting on the history of Destin and the Destin Fishing Rodeo.
- ◆ October 2: Kathy Blue gave a presentation to the Destin Rotary Club at Rutherford's at Regatta Bay.
- ◆ October 17: Kathy Blue gave a presentation on Destin to the Destin Elementary School K-KIDS, a group sponsored by Kiwanis.
- ◆ October 24: The Museum had a table set up at the annual City of Destin Open House at the Destin Community Center.

TOURS

- ◆ October 11: The Destin Chamber of Commerce's "Destin Forward" class came to the Museum for a tour.
- ◆ October 15: Mayflower Tours out of Illinois brought a busload of visitors to the Museum.
- ◆ October 19: DeNure Tours is bringing a bus of visitors each Friday thru December from Pelican Beach Resorts.
- ◆ December 11: TDC brought a visiting travel writer for a museum visit.
- ◆ December School Break: Students have free admission to the Museum.

26th Annual Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade



Folly II

Captained by David Locht
Private 30 Ft. & Under



Team Galati

Captained by Joe Galati
Private 31 Ft. & Over



Honoring the Primrose

Captained by Keith Nelson
Charter/Commercial 30 Ft. & Under



Swoop II

Captained by Matt Wheeler
Charter/Commercial 31 Ft. & Over

WINNERS



Emerald Grande Shuttle

Captained by Cindy & Crew
Tour Boat/Motorized



Miami Merger

Captained by Greg Buchanan
Sailboat 30 Ft. & Under



Daniel Webster Clements

Captained by Chandler Clark
Sailboat 31 Ft. & Over
AND
City of Destin Heritage Award



Power Packer

Captained by Norm Leonpacher
Overall Best Entry

The Destin History and Fishing Museum hosted the 26th Holiday on the Harbor Destin Boat Parade Sunday, December 9, 2012. Trophy sponsors for the event were: Kelly Plantation Fishing Club, Harbor-Walk Marina, HD Photography, Pelican Beach Resorts, Harry T's Restaurant, and The City of Destin. Gift Certificate award sponsors were: AJ's, Anglers, Cabana Café, Crab Island Cantina, Crab Trap, Flemmings, Fudpucker's Harry T's, and Poppy's Crazy Lobster. Special award sponsors were Resort Quest and Emerald Coast Scuba.

Ted Cocoran was the Master of Ceremonies for the event with judging from Harry T's Restaurant. Judges for the Museum awards were: Camille Morgan, General Spigelmire, and Ryan Cox of Bass Pro Shops. City judges for the new City of Destin Award for the vessel that best depicted the Harbor Heritage were George Eller, Mike Raim, and Sandy Trammell. This new award was open to every boat entry. Twenty-five Christmas Spirited boaters registered for the lighted boat parade which was viewed all along Destin Harbor.

The Museum Staff, Jean Melvin & Kathy Blue and Parade Committee Mike & Terri Long, Dave Steele, John Lefler, Dan Empson and Greg Featherston thanks everyone that participated in helping to light up the harbor with holiday spirit and everyone that came out to join in the beautiful display. Special thanks to the Destin Coast Guard Station, City of Destin, Destin Fire Control District, HarborWalk Village, the Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade Committee and Judges for helping to make the parade a wonderful Destin Holiday Tradition. The fabulous fireworks show was sponsored by HarborWalk Village. Funds raised from the event go to the creation of new exhibits in the Museum.

destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Museum Board of Directors

Executive Board President: Mike Long Vice President: Dave Steele

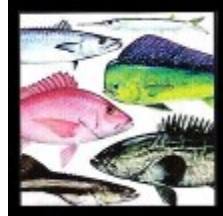
Secretary: Monica Autrey Treasurer: John Lefler

General Board: Richard Derek, Dan Empson, Jim Green, Norm Hall, Tina Harbuck, Hollis Lathem, Dan Martin, Don Rogers, Lloyd Taylor, Russell Wamble

Executive Director Jean Melvin **Associate Director** Kathy Marler Blue

Museum Docent: Dave Fraser **Museum Volunteer:** Carole Marler, Johnie Blue

Newsletter Writer and Editor Kathy Marler Blue



DHFM
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Destin, FL 32540-

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:
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E-mail: destinhistory@gmail.com
kathydestinhistory@gmail.com

Website:
destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org



RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES AND CELL PHONES AT THE MUSEUM

Your recycled cell phones earn \$5-10 each for the museum. Keep them coming!!!

Tuesday - Saturday
10am to 4pm

Admission: Adults: \$5
Seniors & Military: \$4
Students: \$3
Kids 6 & Under and Members : Free

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Join or Renew Your Membership Today

Destin History and Fishing Museum is a non profit organization whose members are dedicated to preserving, documenting, and sharing the complete history of Destin. There are limitless ways you, your friends, and associates can be part of realizing these efforts. Now more than ever we can use your support. **Your donation or membership is tax deductible.** Please fill out the form below and mail it to the museum.

Yes, I Give My Support!

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Membership/Amount \$20 _____ \$ 50 _____ \$ 100 _____ \$250 _____ \$ Other _____

Check # _____ If you would like to pay by credit card please call the Museum and have your credit card ready.

Mail to: **Destin History and Fishing Museum P.O. Box 548 Destin, Florida 32540-0548**

Thank you. Without your faithful and generous donations and efforts, the museum would not exist today.