

# Destin History & Fishing Museum

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

• **BOARD MEETINGS** For 2014 :

Jan.8, Feb.12, Mar.12,  
Apr. 9, May 14, June 11,  
July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10,  
Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

Museum Visitors

2006: 2,095  
2007: 3,527  
2008: 4,561  
2009: 5,804  
2010: 6,368  
2011: 7,131  
2012: 8,300  
2013: 8,036

2014: January to September attendance 6,357.



Grouper Fishing Was featured  
On our July  
"Fisherman's Logbook"  
Exhibit

Volume 9 Issue 1

July to September 2014

## From the Staff

October 1, 2014 marks the 9th Anniversary of the DHFM. The Museum committee began to make plans in 2003 for the new museum. I set up my computer in my home and began gathering artifacts from the previous museum. Gathering up the Henkel collection of mounted fish was the first task at hand. Our beautiful "fish wall" was constructed thru the generosity of T.Henry Homes to hang all the large mounts. It is the museum's largest exhibit.

The citizens of Destin have been very gracious sharing their family heirlooms to be included in our collections and used in our exhibits. We have recently added the room on the southwest side of our building as part of the Museum. This 1,200 sq. ft. space will provide us with a much needed area for educational classes and lecture series.

As the "Village" that was Destin shrinks, the Museum expands, ever holding on to the history of "The Worlds's Luckiest Fishing Village".

Jean

## Calendar of Events

September 14

AJ's Tin Cup Classic Golf Tournament  
Benefitting the Museum

October 1

Museum 9th Anniversary

October 3, 4, & 5

Destin Seafood Festival  
Museum Fundraising Concessions  
Harry T's Dave's Dogs Booth &  
AJ's Parking Concession

Month of October

The Great Pumpkin Patch at AJ's  
Benefits the Museum

December 14

28 th Annual Holiday on the Harbor  
Lighted Boat Parade

January 31, 2015

Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction  
Destin Community Center  
11 AM to 2 PM

**We are looking for items for our Silent Auction.  
Please contact us if you have an item or gift certificate  
to donate.**

## The Return of "Jaws"

After a 4th of July weekend with vandals leaving the popular "photo op" broken in two pieces, the jaws are back! Museum Board Member, Rick Derek restored the jaws with his fiberglass skills. Museum Board President Dave Steele and Volunteer Rick Ivey rehang the popular outdoor exhibit. This exhibit was made possible by Alan Laird and AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar.





Museum Board Member

*Michael Sutter Long*3/6/1933 - 8/12/2014

Mike Long was a long time supporter of the Destin History and Fishing Museum from the planning days in 2003 to the opening October 1, 2005 to the most recent Museum events. Mike gave so much time and money to the Museum and helped create this wonderful community amenity that preserves Destin's heritage.

- Helped fundraise for the newly created Destin History & Fishing Museum when the planning started in 2003.
- Helped build the museum interior and exhibits for the opening in 2005.
- Served on the Museum Board from 2005.
- Served on the Museum Executive Board as Vice President/fundraising 2005 thru 2009.
- Served on the Museum Executive Board as Vice President/President Elect 2009 thru 2010.
- Served on the Museum Executive Board as President 2010 thru 2013.
- Promoted the Museum in the community and thru his wide contacts.
- Attended functions where the museum received funds and acknowledgements and building and decorating floats for parades.
- Received the USA Presidential Volunteer Service Award in every level including Bronze, Silver, and Gold covering over 500 volunteer hours.
- Received the Museum Diamond volunteer Service Award for over 1,000 volunteer hours.
- Took active volunteer roles in all fundraisers including the parking concession for the Seafood Festival, Holiday on the Harbor lighted boat parade, Gumbo Contest and Silent Auction and running the wine toss.
- Cleaned artifacts to prepare them for display.
- Always on call to work in any capacity needed.

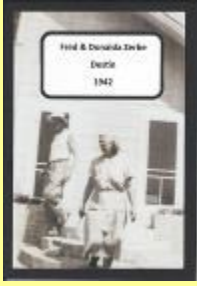
The Destin History and Fishing Museum honors Mike's memory by rededicating the museum's fish wall exhibit to , "The Mike Long Memorial Fish Wall". Mike was instrumental in making this impressive exhibit a reality.



Mike Long receiving both the Museum and the Presidential Volunteer Service Award from Mayor Sam Seevers and Museum Executive Director Jean Melvin.



Dave Steele presenting Mike Long an outgoing board president plaque for his service.



## *Snapshots From the Past*

Frederick Kolb Zerbe

Frederick “Fred” Kalb Zerbe was born March 28, 1879 in Pennsylvania to parents Oliver J. Zerbe and Christiana Love. In 1910, he married Donalda Cameron Rice. Donalda was born February 8, 1885 in Buffalo, Erie County, New York to parents William Howard Rice and Donalda Cameron. She was one of five children. The 1931 census shows them living in Syracuse, New York with Fred’s occupation listed as “superintendent”.

Fred and Donalda Zerbe moved to Destin in 1936, building their home on Calhoun Avenue on land purchased from the Vernon Land & Lumber Company.

In the early 1930s enroute to New Orleans, from their home in Syracuse, New York, the Zerbes learned of land to be auctioned at Moreno Point in Okaloosa County Florida. The Zerbes arranged a visit to Destin and fell in love. They instructed a Pensacola Realtor to purchase a lot for them in Destin when it became available.

On April 25, 1935 acreage east of East Pass known as Moreno Point Military Reservation was (with exception) sold to Vernon Land & Lumber Company. The Vernon Land & Lumber Company subdivided some of the acreage and the Zerbes were able to purchase their lot.

The Zerbes intended to retire in Destin when they reached that age. Fred’s health necessitated his retirement sooner than expected. With assistance from Elisha Marler, Fred built his home and in 1936 moved to Destin to recuperate.

Fred was one of the founders of the Boys Club of America and in 1936 was elected “Man of the Year” in Syracuse, New York. Fred was dedicated to improving things and people and inspired others. He was a leader and conceived the idea of construction of a Destin Community Center which would be a place where interested residents could gather to handle the affairs that affected the entire community. This building would house the growing library and serve as a social and cultural center for the community. His friend, Al Fox had told him he had collected books for Destin. In August 1940, Zerbe wrote to the Gaylord Library Supply Company at Syracuse, NY for suggestions to start a library. The company donated all the necessary supplies to create a 500 volume library and oak shelves. January 31, 1944 a group of 74 residents, including Zerbe met with the purpose to plan, build, equip, and maintain a Community House. Zerbe was chosen as the secretary/treasurer and the dream of a gathering place for locals was visualized with the completion of the building in 1947.

Fred Zerbe died in Destin at the age of 83 October 4, 1962. His wife Donalda passed away just five months later in Destin on March 9, 1963 at the age of 78.



**PUMPKIN PATCH**  
**AT AJ'S**  
**BENEFITING MUSEUM**

Open 10 AM to 7 PM

Get Your Pumpkins Here !



Gourds \$1-\$1.50

Spookies/Pie Pumpkins  
 (in big box) \$1.75-\$2

WeeBees (small, smooth  
 with some spots) \$ .75  
 to \$1

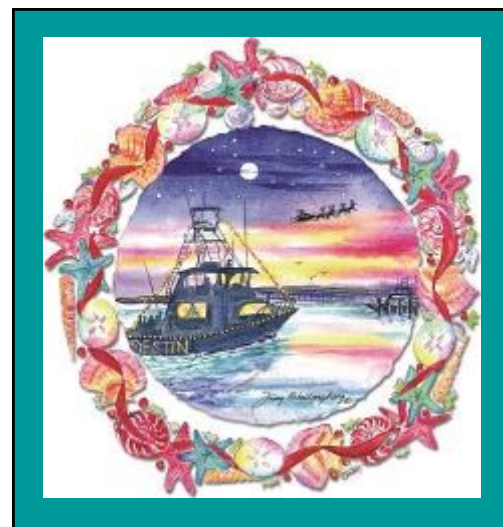
Perfect Pumpkins  
 (small regular looking  
 pumpkins) \$ .75

Bulk Pumpkins priced  
 by size from \$3 to \$20



**28th Annual Holiday on the Harbor**  
**Lighted Boat Parade**

Boaters are invited to help us light up the harbor with the true Destin spirit. This great holiday tradition will be held Sunday, December 14th with a bad weather date of December 21st. There will be festivities held that afternoon at HarborWalk Village and along the Harbor. The parade begins at 6 PM with judging upstairs at Harry T's Restaurant. A fireworks display sponsored by the Destin History and Fishing Museum and provided by Pryo Shows, Inc. will help celebrate the holiday after the boat parade. Thousands of viewers are expected to view the lights from all along the Destin Harbor. Mark your calendar now and join in this unique Destin holiday tradition.



Entry Forms are available at the Destin History & Fishing Museum. Entry fee is \$25 per boat. Categories include all sizes of private and commercial boats. Plan to help celebrate the holiday in the true "Destin style"!

## ***9th Anniversary Marks Growth & Expansion***

October 1st marks the 9th anniversary of the Destin History and Fishing Museum. The first full year in 2006 saw 2,000 visitors come thru the museum with well over 8,000 annually since 2013. Creation of new exhibits thru the generous donations of time, money, and artifacts from local businesses and descendants of the early families have enabled the museum to capture Destin's heritage for generations to come. Our partnership with the City of Destin and their desire to preserve Destin's heritage will further ensure this goal.

The Museum and the City of Destin entered a 25 year lease for the museum building including the room previously known as the Senior Center. City use of that room will be scheduled in other City facilities allowing the museum to expand to include much needed storage, an archive & preservation area, an additional bathroom, technology and seating area for lecture series as well as children's activities, and relocate and expand the exhibits featuring the Destin Seafood Rodeo, the Destin Seafood Festival, and the Miss Destin events. This added room will enable other exhibits throughout the museum to be expanded.

The Museum is working with the City of Destin to have the seine boat Primrose rebuilt. The restored Primrose will have a new home under a custom shelter relocated on the Museum property. In addition, the Old Post Office will also be relocated to the Museum property. The Museum maintains the exhibits inside the Old Post Office which is a part of the museum tour. This relocation will create a heritage complex for the museum and allow the City to enlarge their community center outdoor area. This newly planned area will be landscaped with walkways and plantings. Memorial benches are planned for the area.

The Museum purchased a beautiful outdoor building which is placed behind the Museum for storage. Future plans are to fundraise to build an addition to the Museum which would house the seine boat Primrose inside. The museum's vision is that this addition house the Primrose and have all aspects of Destin's boat building and early fishing industry. The outdoor custom shelter would then be available for a new exhibit.



destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

### Destin History & Fishing Museum

#### Museum Board of Directors

**Executive Board** President: Dave Steele Vice President: Dan Martin

Secretary: Kathy Marler Blue Treasurer: John Lefler

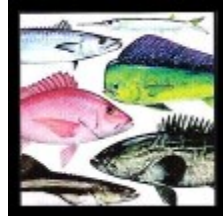
**General Board:** Richard Derek, Dan Empson, Jim Green, Norm Hall, Tina Harbuck,

Don Rogers, Lloyd Taylor, Russell Wamble

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

**Museum Docents** Dave Fraser, Carole Marler **Museum Volunteer:** Nancy Johnson

**Newsletter Writer and Editor** Kathy Marler Blue



DHFM  
P.O. Box 548  
Destin, FL 32540-

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:**  
DESTIN HISTORY & FISHING MUSEUM  
108 STAHLMAN AVE.  
DESTIN, FL 32541

Phone: 850-837-6611

E-mail:  
Jean Melvin  
destinhistory@gmail.com  
Kathy Marler Blue  
kathydestinhistory@gmail.com

Website:  
destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

**TAX TIME IS COMING !!!  
LOOKING FOR A 2014 TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

*Donation Tax Receipts are available for your donations to the Destin History & Fishing Museum*

Tuesday - Saturday  
10am to 4pm

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

**Newsletter printed courtesy of Xerox**

### 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.