

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

- **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:** For 2012 the meetings will be: **January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.**

Museum Visitors

2006: 2,095
2007: 3,527
2008: 4,561
2009: 5,804
2010: 6,368
2011: 7,131
2012: January to August
6,596 visitors !

MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL TIME

Membership or renewal information is on the back page of this newsletter. We welcome your membership or donation to help us meet our goals.

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Volume 7 Issue 1

Summer2012 Newsletter

Director's Corner

Summer rushed by and now Fall has arrived with a flurry of activities. School has started, attendance at the Museum has dropped off, giving Kathy and me time for the planning of the Museum's two biggest fundraisers, the Seafood Festival and the Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction. Both of these events require participation by all of our members as well as lots of volunteers to be successful. Throw in the Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade, our "Thank You" to the community, and we are busy! In addition, we have the new exhibit, "Eden Reef" and our turpentine exhibit ready to open. Our success is only possible with the help of membership and volunteers. We are very successful, but with the reduction of funding from the county, state, and city, we need everyone's help just to stay even. To volunteer, please contact the Museum at 837-6611.

Thank you, for all you do, no matter how small, it is important!

Jean



Visit the renovated boat industry exhibit featuring the evolution from seine boats to charter boats and party boats.

Calendar of Events

Old Fashioned Fish Fry
June 9 11 to 2
Destin Community Center

Ribbon Cutting
Royal Melvin Park
June 20

Red, White, & Blue Celebration
Celebrating Destin's Original Families
June 21
HarborWalk Village

"Pioneers of Paradise"
Special to The Destin Log
July 7 Edition

Kelly Plantation Fishing Club
Annual Meeting at the Museum
August 14

Membership Renewals Appreciated !

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Destin Seafood Festival
October 5,6, & 7
Parking Concession \$10
(across from AJ's & behind museum)
Harry T's Food Booth Concession
(at festival site)
*Concessions benefit the museum !

Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade
December 9
6 P.M. on the Harbor

Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction
Jan.26,2013
Destin Community Center
11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



EDEN REEF

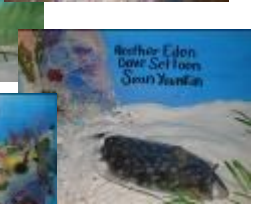


The Museum's newest exhibit, Eden Reef, is now completed and ready for visitors. The 8 ft. X 11 ft. dry aquarium exhibit was constructed to complement the existing shark tank at the entrance to the museum. The exhibit area construction was sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture through a grant. Exhibit sponsor Bass Pro Shops started their portion of the work on the reef tank August 7th completing a beautiful recreation of a reef ecosystem with white sand Gulf floor on August 21st. Over twenty fish mounts, numerous shells, and other marine creatures inhabit the dry aquarium exhibit.



Made Possible By:

- Craig Augustine of Bay Harbor Renovations, Inc.
- City of Destin
- Guy Donaldson / Guy's Glass & Mirror of Destin
- Home Depot
- Mike Long / Museum Board President
- Doe Schuster / Henderson Beach State Park
- Heather Eden / Bass Pro Shops-Destin Visual Imagery & Merchandising Specialist
- Dave Settoon / Bass Pro Shops-Destin Maintenance Manager
- Sean Younkin - Bass Pro Shops-Destin Maintenance Lead & Carpenter
- Howard A. Padgett / Bass Pro Shops-Destin Assistant Store Manager
- Ryan Cox / Bass Pro Shops-Destin Store Manager
- Monica Matthias - Bass Pro Shops-Corporate Office Springfield, MO- Project Manager & Project Administrator
- Captain Kelly Windes - grouper mount
- Grant Thomas - barracuda mount
- Dr. John Green - black tip shark mount
- Frazier Shoults - hammerhead shark mount
- Jerry Najarian - goggle eye snapper mount
- Anne Sanders - seafans, coral, shells



Pioneers of Paradise

The Chambless Family

Written by Jean Melvin

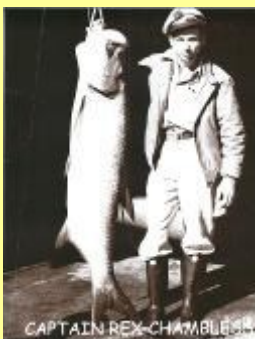
The first record of the Chambless family living in Destin is in the early 1920s. Originally from Geneva, Alabama, Benjamin H. and Roxie Chambless were parents to four boys and two girls. Their children were S.A. (Slick) the oldest, Edward Lee, R.E. (Rex), Winnie, Sammy and Mary. Lee and Slick were the first of the family to make their way to Destin to seek employment as fishermen. They traveled by skiff down the Pea River and Choctawhatchee River into Choctawhatchee Bay and then 30 miles on to Destin. In 1928, at age 13, R.E. (Rex) followed his two older brothers to Destin. Walking from Samson, Alabama Rex found employment with several people including Spence Brothers Seafood in Niceville and Ben Marler in Destin. By the early 1930s, all three brothers had obtained their Masters Captain License and became Captains of some of the original "Head" boats in Destin. In 1935, the brothers had saved enough money to return to Alabama and bring their mother, baby brother and two sisters to live in Destin. In 1940, Rex married Martha Agnes Young. In 1943, Rex enlisted in the U.S. Army. He participated in many of the major battles in Europe. On leaving the Army in 1948, Rex immediately returned to his home and family in Destin. During the 1950s, Rex was employed by Coleman Kelly on his fleet of recently built "Head" boats. Beginning in the 1950s, Rex became a personal advertisement for Destin and the great fishing here. He loved it so much he wanted everyone to know about Destin. During the 60s, 70s and 80s, he traveled all over the United States passing out literature about Destin and its wonderful fishing. This was all done at his own expense. Much of his time during these years was also devoted to entertaining our American Veterans. For this work, Rex was honored by President George H. Bush who called him a bright point of light. Captain Rex passed away on October 2, 2008 at the age of 93. He had lived in Destin for 80 years.



Capt. Rex Chambless Key West 1941
doing some work for the U.S. Navy &
joining in 1943.



Sargent Rex Chambless and Martha
Agnes Young were married in 1940



Capt. Rex Chambless with a large tarpon, circa early 1950s



ABOVE: Photo of the ISIS circa 1950

Capt. Rex Chambless top left

His sons Rex on bottom left & Harold on bottom right.

BELOW: Capt. Rex Chambless bottom right.

This is a photo of the 3rd sailfish to come into Destin about 1950.
Copies of original Arturo prints with permission of Arturo's Studio
3/6/12





Christmas is Just Around the Corner



Christmas Ornaments \$10

Three S's of the Sea: Each bulb holds Destin sand glued to the back-drop with fish netting holding a sand-dollar, seahorse, & starfish.

Treasures of the Sea: Each bulb holds Destin sand, sea glass, seashells & gold charms.

** These raffia & ribbon topped plastic ornaments have been glued closed so your ornament will stay safe. Ornaments were made here at the Museum!

"Footprints in the Sand" Celebration of Life in Destin Past, Present, and Future

The Museum's Celebration Garden Patio is filling up. Purchase your paver to honor a family member, business, boat, special event in your life, or organization.

4 X 8 \$75
8 X 8 \$150

Certificate with picture of your paver and overall area after installation.

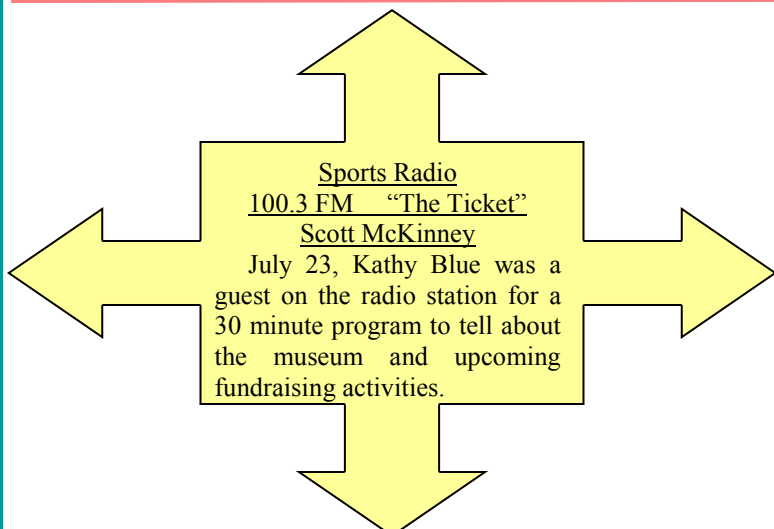


Harry T's Gold Keychains

Coveted Harry T's VIP Gold Keychains available for a \$50 museum donation. Good forever, \$2 off cocktails anytime, 10% off entire bill each time you dine at Harry T's and "Top of the List" preferred seating. Never wait for a table! Each packaged in decorated gift bag. There are still a few available, so come by for this great VIP LOCALS item!



Choose a unique gift for someone on your list!



Sports Radio
 100.3 FM "The Ticket"
Scott McKinney
 July 23, Kathy Blue was a guest on the radio station for a 30 minute program to tell about the museum and upcoming fundraising activities.

Getting the Word Out
About the Museum

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!!!!

If you would like to volunteer to help out for one of the museum fundraisers please call 837-6611 or come by the museum. We welcome your help!

Niceville Noah's Ark
 July 17 & 18
 57 children & 10 adults

TOURS



**Many thanks
to these
contributors
to the**

**“Footprints
in the Sand”**

**Celebration of
Life
in Destin
Past, Present,
&
Future**

**PAVER
FUNDRAISER**

- Ben Marler
- Kathy Marler Blue
- Jean Melvin
- Joyce LaFountain
- Marc Wren
- Sarah Matthews
- Max Hosfelt
- Joan C. McEwen
- Maurice F. Mettee
- Deborah Van Dyken
- Ruth Ann Reusser
- Dr. James R Nunez
- Howard & Helen Williams
- Bob Mittler
- Paula Register
- Mike Long
- Pam Clark
- Jean L & Monique DeChazal
- Jim & Betty Gibbs Woodward
- Billy & Gerri Barnes
- Claude & Tona Newland
- Richard Ivey
- Don Douglas
- Geneva Gibbs
- Deborah Holland
- Tommy & Janie Browning
- Carolyn S. Cox
- Thurman Duvall
- John Lefler

- Gulf Coast Electric
- First City Bank
- Ed Hogeboom
- Liz Marler
- Rex Chambless
- Russell Wamble
- Sam SeEVERS
- Bass Pro Shops of Destin
- AJ’s Seafood & Oyster Bar
- Harry T’s Restaurant
- Pepsi
- T.Henry & Associates
- City of Destin
- Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council
- Karl Rae & Sandy Trammell
- Bill & Myrtie Marler
- Scott Robinson
- Mike Eller
- William R. Calhoun, Jr.
- April Padilla
- Wesley Cheek
- Lloyd Taylor
- Mike Buckingham
- Peyton LoCicero
- Bill & Cindy Posey
- William Frank & Peggy Davis
- Dewey Destin
- Dr.& Mrs. James C.Goodloe IV



destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Museum Board of Directors

Executive Board President: Mike Long Vice President: Dave Steele

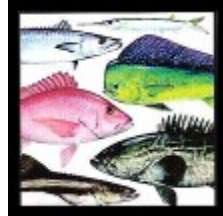
Secretary: Monica Autrey Treasurer: John Lefler

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

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

Museum Docent: Dave Fraser **Museum Volunteer:**s Carole Marler & Johnie Blue

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

Fax: 850-837-6609

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

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.