



Kite Fest flies its colors over DeKalb Sunday, Oct. 5

Mother Nature had her rainy way Sept. 14, but organizers of the Third Annual DeKalb Kite Fest are hopeful she will cooperate on the newly-chosen date of Sunday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

A huge spin sock kite, owned by Sean and Stephany Beaver of Kansas City, will be among the featured kites at the family friendly event. It is the world's largest spin sock, measuring over 190 feet long and nearly three stories tall.

Colorful kites of all sizes and types will fill the skies with whimsical and magical creations at Kite Fest 2008. Many featured kites defy description, including "fighting kites" and a "head-turning display of three, 90-foot-long octopus kites called octophile. Other kites will include: stunt and dancing kites, Mimi the Pink Ladybug, Teddy Bear, owl, manta ray and cat kites.

Kite Fest 2008 will be held in the field of NIU's "North 40," at Lucinda Avenue and Kishwaukee Drive, DeKalb, near Annie's Woods and Anderson Hall. Admission is free, with VIP parking, \$3.

Building on the success of the past two years, this family-oriented event will feature kite-making for children, a candy drop, TAILS animal petting, give-aways and games.

Food will be provided by DeKalb Elks Lodge 765. Other organizations participating include the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, DeKalb Area Convention & Visitors Bureau; DeKalb Park District; and Art Attack.

Some of the area's best kite-fliers and kite-builders will be on hand to answer questions and demonstrate their skills.

Sean and Stephany Beaver are professional kite enthusiasts with the Kansas City Kite Club. Having been involved in many aspects of kiting more than 10 years, they both share a passion for single line, dual line, quad line kites, and variety of large show kites. Sean is also a member of PASA (Professional Air Sports Association) as an accredited kite boarder and continues to promote the sport on lakes throughout the region. Kite boarding is currently the fastest growing water sport in the U.S. and Sean is at the forefront of its promotion in the region.

Sean's personal kite collection includes multiple large show kites, banners, ground displays and extensive kite boarding gear. His center pieces are a 50 foot Trilobite kite, a 50 foot caterpillar, giant spikey balls, a giant kitty cat, and a 90 foot Manta Ray.

"We fly kites so you will look up in life," said the Beavers.

DeKalb Kite Fest 2008 offers plenty of space for participants to fly their own kites. Bring a kite, make a kite or buy a kite from Kite Harbor Kite Shop, which will be on-site.

Spectators are invited to bring a chair to sit back and enjoy watching the sky fill with color. Food and water will be available for purchase. Also, WLBK will conduct a live broadcast from the kite field.

There also will be a raffle for some great prizes, including six tickets to NIU football, an appearance by Victor E. Huskie at an event of your choice, and Huskie basketball tickets. Raffle chances are \$1 each or six for \$5 (must be 18 or older). You need not be present that day to win, so call (815) 756-1336 if you'd like to participate.

"With so much to do and so many ways to participate, we hope folks will take time to enjoy all that we have in store for you," said Debbie Armstrong, DeKalb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

David Gomberg, of the American Kite Association, encourages participating in this fun event.

"If you haven't seen what modern kiting is all about, you really need to get out to a festival like DeKalb's and check out the shapes, the colors, and the amazing things people are doing in the sky," he said.

Sponsors of the event include OC Imageworks, Kish*Health* System/Kishwaukee Community Hospital, AIM Immediate Care, 1360AM WLBK Radio, National Bank & Trust Company, Northern Illinois University Athletics, NIU Media Services, The Gardens of RiverMist, NI Publishing, DeKalb Area Convention & Visitors' Bureau and DeKalb Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about Kite Fest 2008, call the DeKalb Area Convention & Visitors' Bureau, (815) 756-1336, or visit www.dekalbareacvb.com; or DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, (815) 756-6306 (www.dekalb.org).

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