



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dragon Yourself to the Summer Kite Festival

Lincoln City, OR – 2018 is the Year of the Kite, and the theme for the 34th Annual Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival. On June 23rd and 24th, watch as colorful dragons, tigers and other creatures from the Chinese zodiac soar into the skies of Lincoln City in the form of giant, inflatable kites.

New to the festival this year is kite flier Dave Butler. Butler is not only an accomplished kite flier, but also an award-winning kite maker.

“I got my first experience flying kites in the early 80s with my wife, Diane,” says Butler. “We were in Lincoln City on vacation and I bought a stunt kite. I took it down to the beach and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A friend of mine said that I should give kite making a try. So, I convinced my wife, who is a painter, to take a class with me. We both fell in love with the process. I design the kites and she paints them.”

Along with his wife Diane, Butler has been making kites for 25 years. In 2010, the couple were honored for their combined artistic achievements when they received the Lee Toy Award, the most prestigious artistic award given by the American Kitefliers Association. The award, named after distinguished kite flier Lee Toy, is awarded each year to a kite flier that demonstrates exemplary artistic talent.

“It was a complete surprise to win the award,” revealed Butler. “It was a special honor because Diane and I were the first couple to receive it. Her name comes first on the award, which is how it should be.”

Look for Butler on the flying field with his trademark Celtic miniature kites. He might just hand you a kite line.

“I love putting a kite line in the hands of a child,” says Butler. “There’s something in the look on their faces - a look of wonderment and joy. If I can help pass on this fun sport to a new generation, then I will be pleased.”

Join us on the beach at the D River Wayside in Lincoln City for the Summer Kite Festival, June 23rd and 24th, as some of the most colorful "big show" kites take flight. Activities during the festival include kids kite making, professional kite demonstrations and the Running of the Bols, which is a footrace across the beach with each participant harnessed to a parachute kite.

Come and celebrate the Year of the Kite from 10am to 4pm on each day at this fun family event. For more information, please visit OregonCoast.org or call 541-996-1274.

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