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## **Volunteers Clearing Massive Kimball Pines Storm Damage - for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season of Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire!**

**Where:** Kimball Pines County Park

1150 E. Michigan Avenue (directly behind the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility)  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014

**When:** Work began Saturday, June 4 and will continue through opening gate of the popular community event on July 9, 2011. **(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED DAILY!)**

The unconfirmed tornado and high storm winds that uprooted hundreds of trees and caused extensive property damage in Marshall and Battle Creek, MI on Sunday, May 29 also flattened scores of trees and ripped apart a large pavilion shelter in Calhoun County Kimball Pines Park, the site of the annual Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire.

Approximately 100 volunteers pitched in for the first cleanup weekend, organizing crews to begin the arduous process of clearing the park pathways and entrance roads, raking debris, and chipping brush into mulch. These efforts are being coordinated in conjunction with Calhoun County, under the faire's lease agreement. (Yes, our "faire" is spelled with an "e" on the end!)

"The cooperation from the Calhoun county government entities and the community support has been amazing," says Silver Leaf General Manager, Wendy Graves. "Over 30,000 patrons and participants are planning to travel from all across Michigan and the Midwest to enjoy the five weekends of faire, from July 9 though August 7, so it is vital that we get the park in decent and passable shape for our community, the audiences, the merchants, and our talented musicians and other entertainers. It won't be perfect by opening gate, but we WILL open on time. Silver Leaf is a successful annual event and it brings in thousands of dollars in spin-off tourist spending – a positive economic impact for Battle Creek and the surrounding areas of Calhoun County."

Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire's 20th Anniversary season, weekends only July 9 –August 7, will feature knights in shining armor battling on horseback, comedy, sword fighting, merry music, merchants of unique wares and all-day family entertainment.

For more information or to offer volunteer help in the storm aftermath cleanup, contact Silver Leaf General Manager Wendy Graves at 269-209-7131. Print and web quality photos of the park damage and volunteer crews in action are available to print media by request. You may also make arrangements to send a photojournalist or a TV news camera crew. For more general information on our "20 Years of Amazing Days and Knights," please visit <http://www.silverleafrenfaire.org> .