

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MERRILL LAKE SPRING CLEANUP  
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020**

By  
**Warren Bieker**

Calling all volunteers! Please sign up to join fellow CSF members for the fifteenth annual Merrill Lake Cleanup, which will be held on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. This early request has been made necessary as we have no CSF general meeting in March because of the yearly banquet. A sign up list will be circulated at the February meeting, and then there will be another reminder in the March Barb.

We will meet at the DNR campground and boat launch at 9 AM to prepare the park for the spring season. I have not seen a job list yet for the planned activities, but the fall cleanup that was conducted by DNR and CSF members in mid-November took care of many of the tasks that are often done in the spring.

As usual, we will be turning the picnic tables right side up, picking up any litter left by the thoughtless, disposing of any stray limbs from storm damage, clearing trails if necessary, installing the new "Fly Fishing Only" signs, cleaning culverts to help preserve the trails, washing the algae from the signs on the interpretive trail, and perhaps spreading some gravel where needed. I don't think there are any new major projects in the works for this time.

Some of the maple leaves that were completely cleared from the camp sites and the trails in November may have migrated back to where they are not wanted, so if you have a gas powered leaf blower, bringing it along may be a big help. There are always jobs suitable for everyone. Even children have been helpful by picking up sticks and pointing out litter for their parents to bag up. DNR provides hand tools, but if you have a favorite shovel, garden rake, leaf rake, or wheelbarrow that you wish to bring, mark it with your name so that it can be returned to you.

It's the forest, it's early spring, so dress appropriately and bring rain gear! We will hope that there will be no late snowfall to force cancelation of the event, but be sure to include your email address or phone number when you sign up to volunteer. If we are forced to postpone for some reason, I will call or email you so you don't waste your time driving up to the lake to find no one home! To volunteer, please sign up at the February meeting, email me at [ljbieker@comcast.net](mailto:ljbieker@comcast.net), or call me at 360-687-5475.

CSF has become an official member of DNR'S Adopt-A-Site program, and we have agreed to contribute 200 volunteer hours per year. Those hours are matched by funding grants to DNR for site maintenance and improvement. Be sure to register with DNR at the lake, and be certain to include your round trip travel time - it counts toward the total.