

# From the Desk of the Director

The USDA recently announced its continuous conservation practice - CP 38 as a means to benefit wildlife and conservation practices throughout the United States. This program recognizes that each state has a variety of landscape needs and allows the decision on land qualifications to be made on an individual state basis.

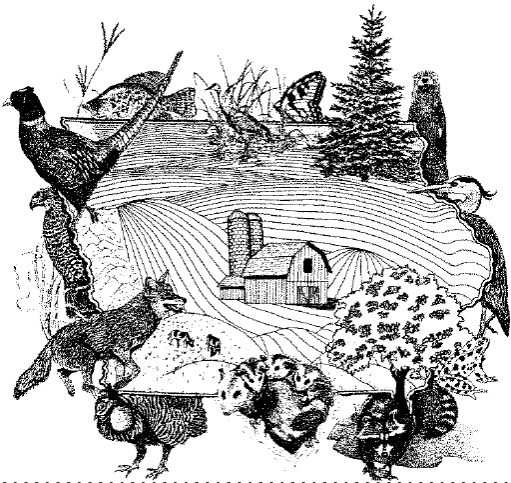
In the state of Iowa, up to 27,700 acres of land can be enrolled in the program. Landowners will receive rental and incentive payments to restore critical habitat for their land in qualifying areas. This program will benefit many wildlife species - from pheasant to bobolinks to butterflies - as well as improving water quality and preventing soil erosion.

The program could not come at a better time as habitat loss in Iowa is at a critical stage. More than 800 square miles of grassland - an area larger than many Iowa counties - is slated to return to row crops by 2010.

For more information on this program, you can contact your local Farm Services agency.

Be sure to visit your local conservation areas this summer! Our parks are busy, and improvements are underway. Our staff will be increasing this year with the addition of a new park ranger and a part-time naturalist. With their assistance, we will be able to continue to improve our program offerings. Stop by and welcome them on board!

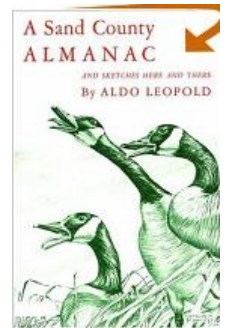
*Terry Boltjes, Director*



It's an oldie - but a goodie! If you haven't read this book before or even if you have and it has been a while ... check out

## **A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold**

Aldo Leopold, one of the foremost conservationists of the 20th century, was born in Burlington, Iowa. As a forest service professional, game manager, and advisor on conservation to the United Nations, Aldo impacted people's perspective of the land around them. From traveling through time while splitting wood to celebrating prairie birthdays, these essays are as pertinent now as when they were written.



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