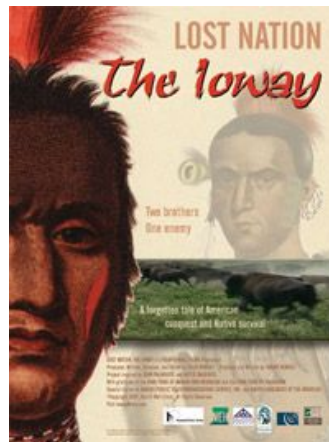


## 2009 is the Year of Astronomy

Keep an eye on the sky! The International Astronomical Union has designated next year as the “Year of Astronomy.” Their goal is to help citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through day and night time skies and to engage in a personal sense of wonder and discovery.

The O’Brien County Conservation Board plans to make astronomy activities regular events in next year’s slate of programs.

Tune in for special events, and plan to STAR at our parties!



## Lost Nation - The Ioway

As Native American dominion was drawing to a close, two Ioway leaders traveled to Washington DC in 1824 to meet with the Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Both signed a treaty ceding a large portion of tribal land for settlement.

One of the leaders was viewed as a patriot and the other as a traitor. After the tribe’s removal, the 36 million acres they once called home was renamed “Iowa.”

This film tells the tale of the two leaders’ struggle to save their people and their Ioway’s current struggle to maintain their history and culture.

Watch for this dramatic documentary on public television broadcasts. The film will also be shown at the Prairie Heritage Center this winter. Watch for the date in your local newspapers and on our website.

## Going Batty!

People often think about bats around Halloween; however, they are most active around us during the late summer. Contrary to the myths, bats are well groomed, have excellent vision to avoid getting stuck in your hair and rarely carry diseases. Bats are a valuable part of our environment.

Iowa has nine species of bats. The most common are the Big Bat and the Little Brown Bat. These species are known for their appetite! A single brown bat can eat up to 600 mosquitoes in a single hour. The Big Brown Bat is a very affective predator against the active phase of the corn borer.

World-wide bats are important natural enemies of night-flying insects. In addition, they pollinate a wide variety of products from dates and cashews to cotton and spices.

Bat numbers are declining. In Iowa’s changed habitat, over 70% of the forests have disappeared. Consider placing a bat house in your yard. Not only will it supplement their habitat, it will provide bats with a much better home than your attic! Call us for bat house plans.



Check your mailing label to be sure the address is correct. Please let us know if any changes should be made.

**If you would like to receive the Little Sioux Wanderings free of charge, please send your name and physical or email address to Naturalist, 4931 Yellow Ave, Peterson IA 51047.** The newsletter is also available via email.

See our web site at [www.prairieheritagecenter.org](http://www.prairieheritagecenter.org) to check out the newsletter or subscribe via email.

Environmental Protection Agency: 712-336-1840  
Conservation Officers: John Sells: 712-260-1019  
Gary Biederman: 712-260-1004  
TIP (Turn In Poachers): 1-800-532-2020

The O’Brien County Conservation Board does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes that he or she has been subjected to such a discrimination, he or she may file a complaint with either the O’Brien County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240