

Nature Comes Back – 25 Years After Chernobyl ... April 26

Special ETV Presentation of NEW Series on Anniversary of Chernobyl Incident

April 26 **NatureScene: Chernobyl** 7:00–7:30 p.m. on ETV (All with unlimited rights for SC schools)
April 26 **Nature Comes Back – 25 Years After Chernobyl** (Programs 1–3) 7:30–9:00 p.m. on ETV

Schedule on SC Channel (SCC): April 24, 3:00–5:00 p.m. and April 26, 9:00–11:00 p.m.

(**NatureScene: Chernobyl**, then three **Nature Comes Back** programs)

Schedule on ITV: April 26 and 28, 8:00–10:27 a.m. on channel 1

(**NatureScene: Chernobyl**, then three **Nature Comes Back** programs, then **NatureScene: Kiev**)

Nature Comes Back – 25 Years After Chernobyl – Program Titles:

- **Program One – Pulling Back the Curtain (26:46)**
- **Program Two – Reflecting on the Impact (26:46)**
- **Program Three – Observing the Return of Life (26:46)**

Twenty-five years ago on April 26, 1986, the largest nuclear disaster in history took place in the Soviet Union. ITV, part of the SC Department of Education's Office of eLearning, has worked with the University of South Carolina and produced in partnership with SCETV three programs in a NEW series entitled **Nature Comes Back – 25 Years After Chernobyl**. This series will “pull back the curtain” with a special panel of experts to allow students to learn about the effects Chernobyl had on the nature, nuclear science, US-Soviet relations, and people who worked there and called it home. Rare photos and video captured by SCETV in partnership with USC will take students to the area devastated by an accident of catastrophic proportions, but, over time nature has returned.

Hosted by **ETV's Mark Quinn**, the outstanding participants in **Nature Comes Back – 25 Years After Chernobyl** include:

- **Charles Bierbauer**, Dean of USC's College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, who was CNN's senior White House correspondent in 1986 at the time of the Chernobyl incident and reported on President Reagan's trip to Indonesia and Japan as Chernobyl's radiation cloud drifted across two continents.
- **Dr. Tim Mousseau**, USC Professor of Biological Sciences, who has made numerous trips to Chernobyl to study the impact of radioactive contaminants on the area and is a leading authority on the impact of radioactivity on birds and insects in the area surrounding Chernobyl.
- **Dr. Gordon B. Smith**, USC Professor of Political Science and Director of the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, who is a noted authority on Russian politics and author of numerous books including “Soviet Politics: Struggling with Change” and “State-Building in Russia.”
- **Dr. Eduardo B. Farfan**, Principal Engineer in Environmental Studies and Biotechnology at Savannah River National Laboratory, who worked with the Chernobyl Center's International Radioecology Laboratory and lived in nearby Belarus for five years.
- **Sherry Beasley**, Grants Director and Foundations Coordinator for the Clemson University Provost, who made four trips to Chernobyl to chronicle and report on the activities in the area and wrote feature articles for *The State* and other media.
- **Allen Sharpe**, Director of Photography for ETV's **NatureScene**, whose photographs from his visit as part of the ETV crew that produced programs in Chernobyl and Kiev are used in the programs.
- **Rudy Mancke**, Naturalist-in-Residence at USC, who was the naturalist on ETV's **NatureScene** that aired nationally on PBS for twenty-five years and who made four trips to Chernobyl to document the natural history.

Featured are footage and photos from when **NatureScene** visited the site of the reactor in 2003. “I think we had an incredible opportunity that most people couldn't have because we were able to take our camera to see what other people hadn't seen before,” **Rudy Mancke** said. “I believe our program on Chernobyl is the only program on the Natural History – looking at the plants and animals - of the event that has been done.” Chernobyl was evacuated and fenced in to keep people out. But since April 26, 1986, nature has shown its resiliency with the plants and animals returning to the deserted site. And, re-settlers have returned too.