

Science on the Air

Check your local listings for exact times and dates. (R) indicates a repeat broadcast.

Aug. 2 (PBS) Nova – “Why Planes Burn” (R) Looks at efforts to make airplane fires less likely and more survivable.

Aug. 4 (PBS) The Day the Universe Changed – “What the Doctor Ordered” (R) Examines the rise of modern medicine and its surprising relationship to the invention of statistics, which doctors use to validate the effectiveness of diagnoses and treatments.

Aug. 6 (PBS) Wild America – “Canyon Creatures” (R) Visits Monument Valley, the Grand Canyon and the sandstone arches of Utah to learn how these spectacular landscapes influence the wild creatures that live within their realms.

Aug. 7 (PBS) National Audubon Society Specials – “Common Ground” (R) Shows how new, cost-effective methods of raising crops can improve farming for generations to come.

Aug. 7 (PBS) Science Journal Provides timely news in science, medicine and technology. Thursdays.

Aug. 8 (PBS) National Geographic Specials – “Mysteries of Mankind” (R) Explores the origins of the human race, going back millions of years in search of clues.

Aug. 9 (PBS) Nova – “Secrets of the Lost Red Paint People” (R) Looks at the advanced seafaring “Red Paint People” of North America and the mysteries of their ancient culture.

Aug. 11 (PBS) The Day the Universe Changed – “Fit to Rule” (R) Examines how Darwin’s theory of evolution was formulated – and how it was transformed to fit 19th-century capitalist America, Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

Aug. 13 (PBS) Wild America – “Wolverine Country” (R) Studies the wolverine in the rugged land it shares with the wolf, red fox, deer and snowshoe hare.

Aug. 14 (PBS) National Audubon Society Specials – “Ducks Under Siege” (R) Looks at the decline of American ducks, caused by loss of wetland habitat, and at efforts to arrest this decline in the United States and Canada.

Aug. 15 (PBS) National Geographic Specials – “In the Shadow of Vesuvius” (R) Follows excavations of ancient Herculaneum to examine what happened during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D.

Aug. 16 (PBS) Nova – “Ancient Treasures from the Deep” (R) Travels to the coast of Turkey to explore the oldest shipwreck ever excavated.

Aug. 18 (PBS) The Day the Universe Changed – “Making Waves” (R) Examines the separation of scientific and public views of science after the discovery of the electric battery.

Aug. 18 (PBS) National Geographic Specials – “Lions of the African Night” (R) Follows a pride of 40 lions during a “typical” night in the African jungle.

Aug. 20 (PBS) Wild America – “Fascinating Fishes” (R) Looks at the variations of the largest “living fossils,” from the prehistoric alligator gar to the colorful darter.

Aug. 23 (PBS) Nova – “Animal Architects” (R) Examines the intricate world of nature’s construction industry and presents rare footage of unusual habitats.

Aug. 25 (PBS) The Day the Universe Changed – “Worlds Without End” (R) Reviews many systems of belief that have been discarded in the light of new knowledge.

Aug. 27 (PBS) Wild America – “Wild Refuge” (R) Visits America’s wildlife refuges, from the first and smallest in Florida to the 8,900,000-acre Alaskan refuge.



Beilinda Wright © 1987 NGS

Aug. 29 (PBS) National Geographic Specials – “Australia’s Twilight of the Dreamtime” (R) Travels to a remote corner of Australia, where aborigines live out the twilight of their culture.

Aug. 30 (PBS) Nova – “The Man Who Loved Numbers” (R) Profiles the life of Indian clerk S. Ramanujan, who astonished the Dons of Trinity College with his self-taught math skills.

Aug. 31 (PBS) Survival Specials – “The Waterhole” (R) Investigates the wildlife of Africa’s Etosha National Park as they gather at a waterhole.

Books

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Astronomical Centers of the World – Kevin Krisciunas. Includes the important astronomical centers of the Northern Hemisphere over the centuries, beginning with the Alexandrian Museum established in the 4th century B.C. Discusses the outstanding accomplishments of each of these centers. Goes on to describe some of the observatories in the Southern Hemisphere and the recently established observatories in the Northern Hemisphere, airborne observatories and satellites. Discusses plans for astronomical instruments of the future. Cambridge U Pr, 1988, 320 p., illus., \$24.95.

The Creative Attitude: Learning to Ask and Answer the Right Questions – Roger Schank with Peter Childers. Creativity depends on the ability to ask the right questions, says Schank. In this book he tries to show where creativity comes from and how one can learn to ask the right questions. Discusses how the creative process can be stifled and how to guard against such stifling. To become more creative, Schank says, it helps to understand how you are already creative and how to build on that by learning to ask the right questions. Macmillan, 1988, 372 p., illus., \$22.50.

Hypochondria: Woeful Imaginations – Susan Baur. The hypochondriac’s preoccupation with health or disease is so intense that it disrupts normal living habits. The hypochondriac resists any efforts of reassurance. This readable book describes the processes by which hypochondriacs come to adopt and maintain illness as a way of life. Among the historical characters who have suffered from hypochondria are Charles Darwin, James Boswell, Leo Tolstoy and poet Sara Teasdale. Topics discussed are childhood hypochondria, hypochondriacs and their doctors, hypochondria among the elderly, occupational hypochondria and the influence of our culture and of other cultures on hypochondria. The final chapter covers treatments. U of Cal Pr, 1988, 252 p., \$19.95.

The Launching of Modern American Science 1846-1876 – Robert V. Bruce. The year 1846 saw the beginnings of the Smithsonian Institution, the Yale Scientific School, the Howe sewing machine and **SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN**; 1876 brought the American Chemical Society, Johns Hopkins University, Bell’s telephone and Edison’s Menlo Park. The prologue indicates that between 1846 and 1876 Americans established national patterns and institutions in science and technology that still prevail. The real significance of this period and the emphasis of this book is, the author says, the internal sociology, economics and politics of science and its interaction with the larger society. Originally published in hardback by Knopf in 1987. Cornell U Pr, 1988, 446 p., illus., paper, \$12.95.

Saving America’s Wildlife – Thomas R. Dunlap. Uses the revolution in Americans’ ideas about wolves and coyotes in the last 50 years to illustrate changing ideas in science and especially the changes in ideas about nature. Princeton U Pr, 1988, 222 p., \$24.95.