

NEWS RELEASE



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OWINGS MILLS

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For immediate release

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Note: Interviews with the series producer and some individuals featured in season segments are available. In addition, production photos and graphics are available at this [LINK](#).

MPT's *Outdoors Maryland* highlights wildlife, people, and places during new December episodes

Segments showcase monarch butterflies and beavers, the Appalachian Trail and Mason-Dixon line, and accomplishments of minorities in the aquaculture industry

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [Maryland Public Television's](#) (MPT) award-winning original series [Outdoors Maryland](#), now in its 34th season, will feature wildlife, people, and places from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore and locations in between during episodes premiering December 6 and 13.

Outdoors Maryland airs Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on MPT-HD and online at mpt.org/livestream. Concurrent with their broadcast debut, episodes are also available to watch on demand using MPT's [online video player](#) and the [PBS Video App](#).



Produced in cooperation with the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR), *Outdoors Maryland* continues to captivate viewers with memorable stories and dazzling videography in its 34th season while introducing a fresh look with a new logo, graphics, theme song, and opening and closing sequences.

Episodes debuting in December highlight the activities and accomplishments of monarch butterflies and beavers, surveyors along the Mason-Dixon line and adventurers on the Appalachian Trail, and the young leader of an Eastern Shore-based nonprofit helping people of color break into aquaculture.

Segments premiering during *Outdoors Maryland* episodes in December are:

Episode 3404 – Tuesday, December 6

- **A Course for Change (Baltimore, Dorchester, and Queen Anne's counties)** – Get to know 28-year-old Imani Black, founder of the nonprofit organization [Minorities in Aquaculture](#), as she takes a

small group of girls on a tour of the Chesapeake Bay as members of the **Owings Mills**-based [Black Girls Dive Foundation](#). Imani's love for aquaculture began as a child, when she attended a summer camp at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's [Horn Point Laboratory](#) in **Cambridge**. Today, she inspires children and adults alike as she works to increase minority involvement in the aquaculture industry.

- **Walking the Line (Maryland-Pennsylvania border)** – Join volunteer surveyors working to find and preserve the stone monuments that make up the Mason-Dixon line as part of a decennial survey of the border between Maryland and Pennsylvania. This time, the [Maryland Geological Survey](#) is attempting to get the stones on the [National Register of Historic Places](#). Viewers also visit the [Colonial Market Fair](#) at the [Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum](#) in **Catonsville** to discover the tools used by original surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, which stand in stark contrast to modern technologies used for surveying the Mason-Dixon line today.
- **Flights of Fancy (Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties)** – Visit the [Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in **Upper Marlboro** during its annual [Monarchs and Milkweed Festival](#), where community members learn to tag monarch butterflies as part of the international [Monarch Watch](#) citizen science project. Then, visit [Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary](#) in **Lothian** to find out how these beloved insects fuel their famed continental migration each year, and examine why their population numbers have been declining in recent years. Finally, meet a group of Girl Scouts hoping to help reverse the decline by creating a [monarch waystation](#) at [RedGate Park](#), a golf course-turned-public park in **Rockville**.

Episode 3405 – Tuesday, December 13

- **Nature's Great Engineers (Central Maryland)** – The North American beaver can do wonders for the hydrology of an area – if only we would let it. Discover how humans and beavers are coexisting across diverse landscapes in locations such as private homes in **Annapolis**, [Tuckahoe State Park](#) in **Queen Anne**, [North Point State Park](#) in **Edgemere**, [Robert Copenhaver Park](#) in **Joppa**, and [Boordy Vineyards](#) in **Hydes**.
- **An Uphill Battle (Frederick and Washington counties)** – For many people who bravely attempt to hike the entirety of the [Appalachian Trail](#) in one season, Maryland represents the spiritual halfway point. With plenty of flora, fauna, and history to observe and enjoy, the Old Line State's portion of the fabled footpath is a unique experience for thru-hikers and day hikers alike. Meet park rangers, ridge runners, volunteers, hikers, and local nature enthusiasts who describe what makes the experience so special.

Since debuting in 1988, MPT has produced more than 700 *Outdoors Maryland* stories on topics ranging from science-oriented environmental issues to segments about unusual people, animals, and places around the state. The series has earned more than 50 awards over nearly 35 years of production, including several Emmy® Awards from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and Thinkport.org. MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit mpt.org.