

NEWS RELEASE



Maryland Public Television

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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](#).

***Outdoors Maryland* episode highlights efforts to engage students and improve green spaces across the state**

New episode, premiering February 20, showcases outdoor education for underserved students, a seed-to-sapling journey for Maryland trees, and young athletes embracing an ancient sport

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [Maryland Public Television's](#) (MPT) award-winning original series [Outdoors Maryland](#), now in its 35th anniversary season, will feature wildlife, people, and places from Central Maryland to the Eastern Shore and locations in between during an episode premiering Tuesday, February 20. Produced in cooperation with the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR), *Outdoors Maryland* continues to captivate viewers with memorable stories and dazzling videography. A preview of the new season is available for viewing at youtube.com/watch?v=ri--ixoemds.

Outdoors Maryland airs Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on MPT-HD and online at mpt.org/livestream. Episodes are also available to view live and on demand using the free [PBS App](#) and MPT's [online video player](#).



The episode debuting February 20 highlights unique efforts to develop the next generation of Maryland's outdoor enthusiasts, archers, and trees. Segments premiering during the episode are:

- **Nature's Classroom (Cecil County, Baltimore City)** – At [NorthBay Adventure](#), on the coast of [Elk Neck State Park](#), Maryland middle schoolers receive an exciting introduction to the natural world. Founded nearly 20 years ago, this outdoor education park in **North East** aims to cultivate in young people a lasting love of nature. Join students from **Baltimore's** [Harlem Park](#) and [Mount Royal](#) schools as they face fears and connect with their peers during vertigo-inducing high ropes challenges and intimate encounters with local wildlife.
- **Raising the Forest (Caroline, Carroll, Frederick counties)** – A sprawling **Caroline County** property, the [John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery](#), is home to the future of Maryland's forests. Here, more than

three million trees get their start each year, sprouting from seeds hand-collected by volunteers across the state. Nursery Manager Richard Garrett walks viewers through the process of nurturing these seeds into seedlings and reveals how the tiny trees make their way to plantings across the state, such as the former **Westminster** golf course being transformed into a [city park](#). Francis Smith, a natural resources planner with the Maryland Forest Service, explains how seeds are collected, including those from trees behind **Frederick County's** [New Market Elementary School](#), and why seed-harvesting volunteers are so essential to the state's [effort to plant an additional five million trees](#) by 2031.

- **Aiming to Win (Charles, Carroll, Baltimore counties)** – Drawing students from all backgrounds, archery has become an exciting new adventure and a safe haven for many young people. Thanks to Lou Compton, longtime president of the [Maryland Bowhunters Society](#) and former Maryland coordinator for the [National Archery in Schools Program](#), many who would not otherwise have access get the opportunity to bring out their inner Katniss. As the state tournament in **Carroll County** creeps closer, students from **Charles County's** [Southern Maryland Christian Academy](#), **Baltimore County's** [Franklin Middle School](#), and others from across Maryland practice and sharpen their archery skills.

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.

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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](#).