

NEWS RELEASE



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TELEVISION

ANNAPOLIS
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FREDERICK
OAKLAND
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* explores unique fish, trails, and tales during January 17 season finale

Segments showcase research on the contemporary lives of prehistoric fish, upkeep of rigorous mountain biking trails, and storytelling of the state's magical beasts

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [Maryland Public Television's](#) (MPT) award-winning original series [Outdoors Maryland](#) will explore some of the state's most unique fish, exhilarating biking trails, and tales of mythical beasts during the series' season 34 finale on Tuesday, January 17.

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.

Segments debuting in during the season finale highlight scientists' work to track spawning of the endangered Atlantic sturgeon in rivers along the Eastern Shore, a renowned state park mountain biking trail in central Maryland, and legends of magical beasts lurking around Frederick County's South Mountain. Episode segments include:

- **Dinosaur Hunt (Dorchester and Wicomico counties)** – The [Atlantic sturgeon](#) is a remnant of the Chesapeake's prehistoric past, where it once filled the region's waters. Credited as a life-saving food source for the Jamestown settlers, the Atlantic sturgeon is now an endangered species after centuries of overfishing. An understanding of the sturgeon's spawning patterns, key to its protection, is as elusive as Maryland's largest native fish. Viewers join a specialized team of DNR

biologists as they track the sturgeon's trip up the **Nanticoke River** to the Marshyhope Creek in **Sharptown**, where they find new evidence of these ancient creatures.

- **Trail Shredders (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard counties)** – Experience the thrill of one of the nation's best mountain bike trail systems, found in [Patapsco Valley State Park](#). Mountain biking enthusiasts from around the state and beyond flock to the park, which is host to the annual [Patapsco Trail Fest](#). This exciting attraction is a labor of love for [The Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park](#), who dedicate countless hours and tireless efforts to maintain all 240 miles of the park's multiuse trails.
- **South Mountain Magic (Frederick County)** – Explore some of the legends inspired by Western Maryland's unique natural spaces. For centuries, **South Mountain** has reportedly played host to some magical creatures, including the ghostly, dog-like Snarly Yow. This otherworldly beast made its home in **Turner's Gap**, along the [Appalachian Trail](#). Another mystical South Mountain resident, the Snallygaster, was blamed for mayhem throughout **Frederick County**, including local fires, factory accidents, and attacks on its human neighbors. Viewers tag along with intrepid local historians and folklorists as they track the beasts and their origin stories through craggy crevices and historic spaces along the mountain.

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](#).