

NEWS RELEASE



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For immediate release

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NOTE: A complete program schedule can be found at mpt.org/bayweek/schedule. Interviews with MPT producers are available on request, and additional program resources are available [HERE](#).

MPT's 19th annual Chesapeake Bay Week® runs April 16-22

*Celebration of nation's largest estuary features 11 new shows
among more than 22 hours of bay-related content*

OWINGS MILLS, MD – Maryland Public Television (MPT) celebrates the Chesapeake Bay region once again in April with its 19th annual Chesapeake Bay Week®, a slate of more than 30 documentaries highlighting the beauty, importance, and fragility of the nation's largest estuary. A video preview and more information about the 2023 lineup are available at mpt.org/bayweek.

During the week of April 16-22, MPT will offer more than 22 hours of content focusing on the Chesapeake Bay's history, heritage, and resources as well as efforts to protect its diverse ecosystem. This year's lineup includes 11 programs that viewers will see on MPT for the first time.



Cornerstone MPT productions premiering this year are *Water's Edge: Black Watermen of the Chesapeake* on Monday, April 17 at 8 p.m.; *Discovering the Dove* on Tuesday, April 18 at 8 p.m.; *Kent County's Storied Landscape: Place – Past and Present* on Tuesday, April 18 at 8:30 p.m.; and *Eatin' Blue Catfish: Chesapeake Style* on Thursday, April 20 at 8 p.m.

MPT's annual Chesapeake Bay Week is a unique programming initiative and part of the statewide public TV network's ongoing commitment to celebrating the bay and examining critical issues faced by communities throughout the Chesapeake region.

Chesapeake Bay Week content will be available to view on MPT-HD and through the station's livestream at mpt.org/livestream, MPT's [online video player](#), and the [PBS App](#).

New programs for Chesapeake Bay Week 2023

***Water's Edge: Black Watermen of the Chesapeake* - Monday, April 17 at 8 p.m.**

Explore stories of bravery and resilience in an industry packed with African American pioneers. Meet trailblazers including a steamboat captain who revolutionized recreation for Black Marylanders in the early 20th century, a pair of renowned sailmakers from Chestertown, and present-day innovators shifting their businesses to meet a changing market. Watch a preview of this MPT-produced film [HERE](#).

***Discovering the Dove* - Tuesday, April 18 at 8 p.m.**

Join a team of shipbuilders as they attempt to recreate a 17th century shipping vessel through clues in passenger diaries, period artwork, and sunken ships. Watch as the new Maryland Dove takes shape in St. Michaels and accompany the crew for her maiden voyage across the Chesapeake Bay to Historic St. Mary's City during this MPT-produced documentary.

***Kent County's Storied Landscape: Place – Past and Present* - Tuesday, April 18 at 8:30 p.m.**

Walk the coastline where Native Americans lived, uncover evidence of a centuries-old oyster roast, find out what a new map of the region has revealed, and join the search for African American heritage in this exploration of Kent County's unique cultural landscape. Watch a preview of this MPT-produced film [HERE](#).

***Pop's Old Place* - Tuesday, April 18 at 9 p.m.**

Welcome to *Pop's Old Place* on Maryland's Eastern Shore, where farmer Darlene Goehringer and her family have worked the land for more than a century. Today, Darlene looks to the future as she tries to balance sustainable farming methods with her need to sustain an income. This program was produced by Dave Harp for Bay Journal Media. Watch a preview [HERE](#).

***Search for the Cooper: A River Hidden in Plain View* - Wednesday, April 19 at 7 p.m.**

Four teenagers kayak, hike, muck, and bushwhack for six days along the neglected Cooper River in Camden County, NJ. Their challenge is to find the source of the river, 17 miles upstream from its mouth on the Delaware River, but they discover there is much more to Camden County than they anticipated. This program was directed by Dave Harp and produced by Sandy Cannon-Brown of VideoTakes, Inc. Watch a preview [HERE](#).

***Upstream, Downriver* - Wednesday, April 19 at 8 p.m.**

Follow the rivers that flow through the hearts of our cities and towns to communities where activists are fighting for clean water equity across the United States. Interwoven with their inspiring stories is historical context that reveals systemic disregard for many communities. This program was produced by Maggie Burnette Stogner of Blue Bear Films. Watch a preview [HERE](#).

***Headwaters Down* - Wednesday, April 19 at 8:30 p.m.**

Once the most polluted waterway in America, the James River in Virginia is a monument to innate resilience and incredible progress. *Headwaters Down* is a living documentation of the beauty, history, and awesome power of this underappreciated river. The program was created by Justin Black, Will Gemma, and Dietrich Teschner of Headwaters Down LLC. Watch a preview [HERE](#).

***Bayou City* - Wednesday, April 19 at 10:15 p.m.**

Growth and development throughout Houston, Texas have degraded the city's bayous, and many of the ecosystem services and wildlife habitat that they once provided are now gone. Dedicated and passionate individuals within Houston's conservation community are working to change how the city sees its bayous. This short film was produced by Olivia Haun of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Eatin' Blue Catfish: Chesapeake Style - Thursday, April 20 at 8 p.m.

Local chefs are now touting the blue catfish, a tasty but unwelcome guest that threatens to upset the biological balance of the Chesapeake Bay. Visit the kitchens of Maryland-area chefs as they test delicious ways to prepare and serve the savory predator during this MPT-produced film.

Wetlands of Wonder: The Hidden World of Vernal Pools - Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m.

Hidden in the woodlands of the Delmarva Peninsula and Virginia are small, seasonal pools formed thousands of years ago. Their unique ecosystem is the ideal habitat for certain small creatures, many of which are rare or endangered. Follow researchers as they explore these fragile freshwater wetlands and the extraordinary life forms that rely on them. This program was produced by Michael Oates of 302 Stories, Inc. Watch a preview [HERE](#).

Island Empire - Saturday, April 22 at 4 p.m.

Follow the story of the Cobb family, who settled on a deserted Virginia barrier island in the 1830s. Through sheer grit, determination, and perseverance, through tragedy and setbacks, the Cobbs turned an empty sandbar into a vibrant, working community. This program was produced by James Spione of Morninglight Films, Inc.

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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 and distributes 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.