

ACCENT

SPANNING TIME



Members of the PBS crew interview local historian Michael Dixon at the Fair Hill covered bridge during the filming of the documentary.

TV show to feature Cecil's covered bridges

TUNE IN TONIGHT

Two local bridges will be part of a segment on "Outdoors Maryland" airing at 7:30 tonight on Maryland Public Television. In most areas, Maryland Public Television is channel 22.

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Maryland Public Television will feature Cecil County's two covered bridges in a program to air at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

The segment, called "Spanning Time," will air during the half-hour show "Outdoors Maryland," and spotlight the seven covered bridges still standing in Maryland. Two of those bridges are in Cecil County: Foxcatcher Farms Covered Bridge, still open to horse riders and employees of the Fair Hill Natural Resources Area; and North East's Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge, which spans the Northeast Creek and is no longer open to traffic.

The segment will also feature some camera-friendly Cecil Countians who know the local structures well. Earl Simmers and Mike Abrams, North East residents, speak kindly on camera about the Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge, a structure which over time has become a symbol of their childhood. In the 1930s, the sturdy bridge stood proudly as the men, then kids, swam in the creek underneath. The pair have more recently spawned a campaign to save the bridge from being torn down.

While filming the segment in November, Simmers invited the segment's producer, Carol Dana, and her crew to his home for coffee and cider donuts from Milburn Orchard.

"Everyone was so sweet," Dana said. "That never happens in



COURTESY FAIR HILL NATURE CENTER

A wintertime view of the Fair Hill bridge, one of the few remaining covered bridges in Maryland.

real life, where someone creates a break for you and says, 'Hey, have a snack.'"

She said at one point during the filming at Foxcatcher Farms, Fair Hill resident JoAnne Dawson even showed up in period costume with a horse. The crew filmed her steering her horse over the bridge and will use the shot to open the segment.

"Cecil County is amazing," Dana said last week, recalling locals' hospitality during the ordeal.

On the show, Fair Hill park ranger Nathan Graham will recall the smells and sounds of the Foxcatcher Farms Covered Bridge, a Burr-Arch-type structure he crosses every day on his way to work.

"I like how it looks in all four seasons; how it stays steadfast though the scenery changes," he told the camera in November.

Mike Dixon, president of the Historical Society of Cecil County, will recall a legend of covered bridges: in the old days, a wagoner could request a kiss from his sweetheart while crossing one.

We suggest that while watching the show over popcorn, a viewer turn to a sweetheart and say, "How 'bout a smooch, for history's sake."