

ROADTRIP

| Mid-Atlantic Reptile Show

Retro chic: Get Donna Reed pearls and '70s prom dresses at the **Fashion Exchange** in the Shab Row shopping district.

Whee! The Giant Dutch Wheel at the **Great Frederick Fair** spins to a height of 180 feet.

Giddyap: Stablemates has been getting riders back in the saddle (English and Western) since 1965.

Pick your own Gala apples, red paste tomatoes and thornless blackberries at **Larriland Farm**.

Vintage neon signs and antique fruit jars can be rediscovered at the **Shops of Yesteryear**.

The **Days End Horse Farm** rescues abused horses, which visitors can adopt.

Looks historic, doesn't it? It should: **Baldwin's Station** restaurant operated as a railway station in the 19th century.

The **Snowball Stand's** Scooby Doo concoction (chocolate, marshmallow and peanut butter) is scrumptious.

The sleepy village of **Roxbury Mills** was the site of the Civil War's Battle of Cookville in 1863.

Fine art ain't just a city thing—**Galerie Francoise et Ses Freres** showcases exhibits in a placid suburban setting.

Reptile invasion!

Women can peruse the Prada while men watch the big-screen TV at the **Synchronicity** boutique.

Throw darts, shoot pool or catch a local band at the **Golden Sports Bar & Grill**.

Get a "couples massage" in the spa or take a swing on the driving range at the **Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center**.

Start here

Driver's route

WHERE: Timonium, Md.

WHY: Snowball heaven, high art and hundreds of scaly-skinned critters.

HOW FAR: About 55 miles, or an hour from Frederick.

Most folks have one of two reactions when confronted with those cold-blooded entities known as reptiles: "Ewww!" or "Kewll!" If you're in the latter camp, you'll want to slink down to next weekend's Mid-Atlantic Reptile Show, which will be crawling (or, in some cases, slithering) with snakes, lizards, frogs, geckos and turtles for exhibit and sale. (Don't expect crocs or alligators, though—they're illegal in Maryland.) What kind of people seek out pets they can't pet? About 5 percent of all pet owners, estimates show coordinator Holli Friedland. The two-day event, at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, will feature creatures for both newbies (easy-to-care-for corn snakes and leopard geckos) and veterans (rare \$1,500 albino boa constrictors). You can also attend seminars on how to care for a ball python or keep a turtle happy. Note: No animals are harmed during the making of this show—they're all captive-bred, and money raised from sales goes to preserve rain forests in Costa Rica. Nothin' slimy about that.

Start your trip with a vintage bonanza in Frederick: A dozen or so old-timey stores make up Shab Row in the downtown historic section (East Street), including the Clock Shop and Country Harvest, which brim with 19th-century grandfather clocks, handmade holiday figurines and quirky items you'd never find in chain stores. Then, immerse yourself in agriculture culture at the Great Frederick Fair, where you can marvel as baby calves spring to life in the Birthing Center.

Got a sweet tooth? Swing into Woodstock and stop by the Snowball Stand, which lures connoisseurs of summertime treats from as far as Virginia and Delaware (the favored flavors: egg custard and taste-bud-tingling cherry). Finally, step into Lutherville's elegant Galerie Francoise et Ses Freres, displaying the ceramics, photos and paintings of Russian artist Gennadiy Gurvich through Sept. 18 and works by Baltimore street-scene painter Jerry Seaton from Sept. 19 to Oct. 2. Hey—it never hurts to add some sophistication to the mix.

— **Tony Sclafani**

The Mid-Atlantic Reptile Show runs Sept. 18-19. For full details, see www.reptileinfo.com/mars.html.

Road Trip maps are available online at www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip, as are addresses and hours of operation (be sure to check before you go). Have an idea for a trip? E-mail roadtrip@washpost.com.

BY JEROME COOKSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST