

# Come Exploring



**Northern Maryland**  
**Saturday, Sept 30, 2017**

Sponsored by the Ring of Kerry Irish Dancers

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**10:00 – Farm Life at Ann Marie’s farm**

**11:30 – Lunch at the Shamrock Restaurant**

## **AFTER LUNCH OPTIONS (on your own):**

- **Cunningham Falls – short hike**
- **Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo**
- **Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes**
- **Nat’l Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

## **HAPPY HOUR**

**4:00 Callahan’s Seafood Bar and Grill, Frederick**

**DETAILS and SIGN UP NEXT PAGE**

# DETAILS

**The area we will be exploring is north of Frederick to the Pennsylvania border.  
All of these places are on or just off Rt. 15.**

1. As most of you know, **Ann Marie Rounds** spends most of her weekends at her farm in Frederick County. She and her family have invited us to visit the homestead and enjoy the country air. Address and details tba. From Ann Marie's, we will travel a few miles to the Shamrock.
2. The **Shamrock Restaurant**, a family owned and operated restaurant, serves affordable food in a cheerful, heartwarming atmosphere. Located at the foothills of the Catoctin Mts (and not far from Ann Marie's farm), the restaurant is a favorite stop for people traveling to Gettysburg. It is located 15 miles north of Frederick and 15 miles south of Gettysburg along Rt. 15. Check out the website [shamrockrestaurant.com](http://shamrockrestaurant.com) for all the details. And yes they feature many Irish items in their small gift shop. 7701 Fitzgerald Rd, Thurmont MD 21788 on Rt. 15. Separate checks will be available.
3. After lunch you will be **on your own** to explore what treasures the area holds for you. All of these places are on Rt. 15 or just off.
  - a. **Cunningham Falls** – September 30th happens to be National Public Lands Day so the state park is open for free. The park is divided into two separate areas. The William Houck Area, located 3 miles west of Thurmont on Rt. 77, is where you will find the falls. A short hike takes you to a pretty little spot for viewing. For more information call 301-271-7574 or Google Cunningham Falls for more information.
  - b. **Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo** – Located on Rt. 15 near Thurmont, MD, this northern Maryland treasure tries to broaden human understanding of the animal world by presenting animals in naturalistic habitats and providing educational programs. Open 9 – 6, adults \$19.75, seniors (60+ and military) \$17.75 plus tax. Safari rides \$12 plus tax; make reservation when you buy your ticket. 13019 Catoctin Furnace Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788. See [cwpzoo.com](http://cwpzoo.com) for all the details. **For example:**
    - 10:00 Keeper Talk at the Sun Bear Exhibit
    - 11:00 Animal Encounter at Conservation Theater
    - 12:00 Keeper Talk at the Kangaroo Exhibit
    - 1:00 Keeper Talk at the Alligator Exhibit
    - 2:00 Animal Encounter at the Conservation Theater
    - 3:00 Keeper Talk at the Tiger ExhibitSafari Rides- Open daily, between 11 am and 4 pm  
Camel Rides- Open daily, between 11 am and 4 pm, weather permitting
  - c. **Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes** – This Catholic national shrine devoted to Our Blessed Mother Mary is a place of worship and pilgrimage. It features one of the oldest American replicas of the Lourdes shrine in France. Large parking area and nicely maintained walking paths. More info at [nsgrotto.org](http://nsgrotto.org).
  - d. **National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** – This site is open from 10-4 with hour-long guided tours of the museum, historic home, and Basilica at 10, 11, 12, 2, and 3. A 12- minute film describes St. Elizabeth and her life. Visitors usually need about 2 hours to visit the shrine. There is a gift shop loaded with Catholic items. See [setonshrine.org](http://setonshrine.org) for more info.
4. After you have completed your adventures, we will gather about 4:00 at Callahan's in Frederick, MD--- and again, this restaurant is located just off Rt. 15---for Happy Hour. This will be a chance to share our stories from the day. Callahan's Seafood Bar and Restaurant features many beers on tap such as Guinness, Yuengling, Angry Orchard, Blue Moon, some IPAs and the usual Buds and Miller Lite. Some of you may be interested in staying for dinner (they claim to have the best crab cakes in Frederick!!). If by any chance the parking lot is full, you may park next door at the Primo Shop or nearby at a shopping strip mall.

**NEXT – You MUST sign up if you plan to join this outing. AND you are welcome to join any or all of the day’s activities. To sign up please send this information to**

**[marilynsworld47@gmail.com](mailto:marilynsworld47@gmail.com) by **Friday, September 22.****

- 1. Your name and guest**
- 2. Will you be carpooling? With whom?**
- 3. List the activities you plan to participate in:**
  - a. Farm Visit**
  - b. Lunch at the Shamrock**
  - c. Cunningham Falls**
  - d. Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo**
  - e. Grotto**
  - f. Seton Shrine**
  - g. Happy Hour at Callahan’s**

**AND:**

**Obie and I will be putting together our plan for the day soon. I will send that out for anyone interested. We would, of course, love to have everyone do exactly what we do---but we encourage you to make your own plans. We can’t do it all. And I can help with carpooling if necessary. Any drivers out there? Anyone needing a ride?**

**Many thanks to Bill and Madelyn for suggesting this outing  
to the RKIDs’ Social Group.  
What a great idea!!**