

**Purse State Park, Nanjemoy, Md. – January 21, 2022**  
**By Dave Lines**

Yesterday afternoon, I went to Nanjemoy Wildlife Management Area (formerly called Purse State Park) to look for fossils on the beach since tide was very low due to north winds and high barometric pressure.



"At 1:00 pm, the air temperature was 24 degrees F and Potomac River water was 40 degrees. Beach was partly frozen in middle part, while upper part unfrozen. Near the water, beach was unfrozen where waves were breaking, but freezing to all obstacles above the water."



"Lots of open beach to look for fossils. Note the downed cedars due to recent heavy wet snow that uprooted them."



"Can you find the sharks tooth in this picture?"



"Patuxent River Stone (MD State Gemstone) on upper portion of picture. In lower center is a piece of purple beach glass --- purple color was caused by sunlight on antique glass --- this piece is over 100 years old. (The following discussion is from the internet: The majority of purple sea glass is sun colored. Most purple (amethyst) sea glass is derived from clear glass bottles made from @1880 to @1915 ... purchased from Germany which was no longer available after the outbreak of World War I. The manganese ... in the clear glass reacted with the sun's ultraviolet rays turning the glass from clear to light purple. Lavender sea glass is still highly prized in the sea glass community for its rare vintage appeal.) On the lower left is a turritella fossil mold. On the lower right is a piece of 'metabasalt' composed of maroon colored jasper and green epidote. We often find metabasalt in the upper portion of the Potomac River --- e.g., at Point-of-Rocks, MD."



"Patuxent River Stone is translucent and is beautiful when tumble polished."



"Jasper partly polished by beach action."



"my finds of fossil sharks teeth."