

Nanjemoy Wildlife Management Area a.k.a Purse State Park
By Dave Lines



These are my finds for February 29, 2020 (Sadie Hawkins Day!!) Saturday afternoon's blowout tide at Purse State Park (now named "Nanjemoy Wildlife Management Area") in western Charles County, MD.

I arrived about 2:00 pm at the parking lot --- wind was howling from the NW and cold. I bundled up and headed to the beach. Predicted low tide was about 4:00 pm, but it was already w-a-a-ay out --- at least 1-1/2 feet below normal low tide and least 10 to 20 feet of extra beach showing.

Lots of rocks were sticking up -- a good sign. A fellow from Virginia was already looking and he had found about 20 small teeth. I quickly walked well past him --- at least a mile down the beach.

There was lots of fallen trees down with lots of fallen cliff sections on the beach. A lot of obstacles to get past. If the tide had been normal level, I definitely would not have been able to get past all the downed trees. The beach past the first major point was in excellent condition --- no seaweed -- just gravel and big rocks -- with some sections of sand.



I found a good deal of turrifera fossils that had been released from the fallen cliff sections by freezing and thawing. My longest turriferas were almost 4" with 8 to 9 "curls".



I found one piece of petrified wood --- I have several of this light colored petrified wood there in past years. I also found some purple beach glass --- very old --- at least 120 years.



Also found a fossil "moonsnail" mold. Plus a few shark's teeth. And a good deal of Potomac (or Patuxent?) River Stone --- the Maryland State gem stone. Some nice translucent pieces up to 3" long. I hope you had a chance to get out there. I heard that Joe, Ralph B. and Nate did some looking in St. Mary's County."