

November Blow Out Tide by Dave Lines



Since my son Jeff was visiting from California for Thanksgiving, we decided to visit Nanjemoy Wildlife Management area (formerly Purse State Park) on the Potomac River in western Charles County on Monday November 21st. The weather forecast held true and the tides on Sunday, Monday and even into Tuesday were 1 to 2 feet below predicted levels due to strong Northwest winds which gusted to over 40 mph for the entire period.

Even though the tide was at least 18 inches below normal, the beaches were covered mostly with fine sand with very little gravel. After spending about 6 hours and walking over 4 miles basically “beach combing”, we found a few shark’s teeth (mostly from small sand sharks), some seaglass, one native American artifact (a red quartzite handchopper), a good deal of Patuxent River Stone (Maryland’s official state gemstone) including one particularly colorful chunk about 4 inches by 2 inches by 1-1/2 inches.



We also picked up almost a bucket of fossil turrítella molds (corkscrew shaped).

We probably could have driven over to the Bay the same afternoon to look for more fossils, but we were tired, so we came home to rest and get warm again.

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Post Script ---- I went over to Calvert Tuesday afternoon and the blowout tides were still very low. I briefly visited the beach at Western Shores estates and found a lot of "pectens" (Chesapecten scallop shells), a small fossil shark vertebra and a few teeth, including a nice 1-1/2 inch extinct mako.
