First Stop – Pine Knot Discharge

NO PICTURES BECAUSE I FORGOT TO BRING THE CAMERA OUT OF THE VAN
Second Stop – Bill Riechert showed the 5 mine pools on a map of the Schuylkill watershed and explained how they are connected in the subsurface. We viewed the stream on one side of the road and the swampy low-lying area on the other side of the road.
Second Stop – Bill Reichert, Megan, and Patrick in the foreground. In the background you can see the low-lying area where water collects and eventually drains into the mine pool.
Third stop -
Fourth Stop – the water diversion approach to remediation. Water which drained into crop falls (below) was diverted through a pipe line (left) to decrease the amount of water flowing into the mine pools.
Fifth Stop – water drains into this basin created by strip mining. It sits in the basin until it drains into the mine pool. A solution to this problem has not yet been attained. Erosion at the surface is also a problem here.
Fifth Stop – the valley viewed from the opposite end. Bill Reichert mentioned that he had never before seen the water appear so orange at this location.
Sixth Stop – a flume was installed many, many years ago by miners to keep water out of the mine pool. That flume is in a state of disrepair and large volumes of water are entering the mine pool at this location. A remediation project at this site would be restoration of the river channel, but this project is being held back by the historical significance of the flume and landowners downstream.
Seventh Stop – a reclaimed strip mine. This site has a biosludge project in place for the production of poplars. The mine was reopened after The Clean Water Act of 1972 and therefore was not restored to original site conditions, but rather to 1972 conditions.
Seventh Stop – Class photos at the drag line
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Eighth Stop – Wadesville Strip Mine, Mammoth Coal Vein
Eighth Stop – Wadesville Strip Mine, Mammoth Coal Vein – Notice syncline in far wall
Ninth Stop – Pine Forest Mine Discharge Project. This is an example of an anoxic drain. A portion of the discharge from the mine pool is captured by the treatment system. Despite the anoxic nature of the system, it is necessary to flush the system once a week to clear out the iron-reducing bacteria.