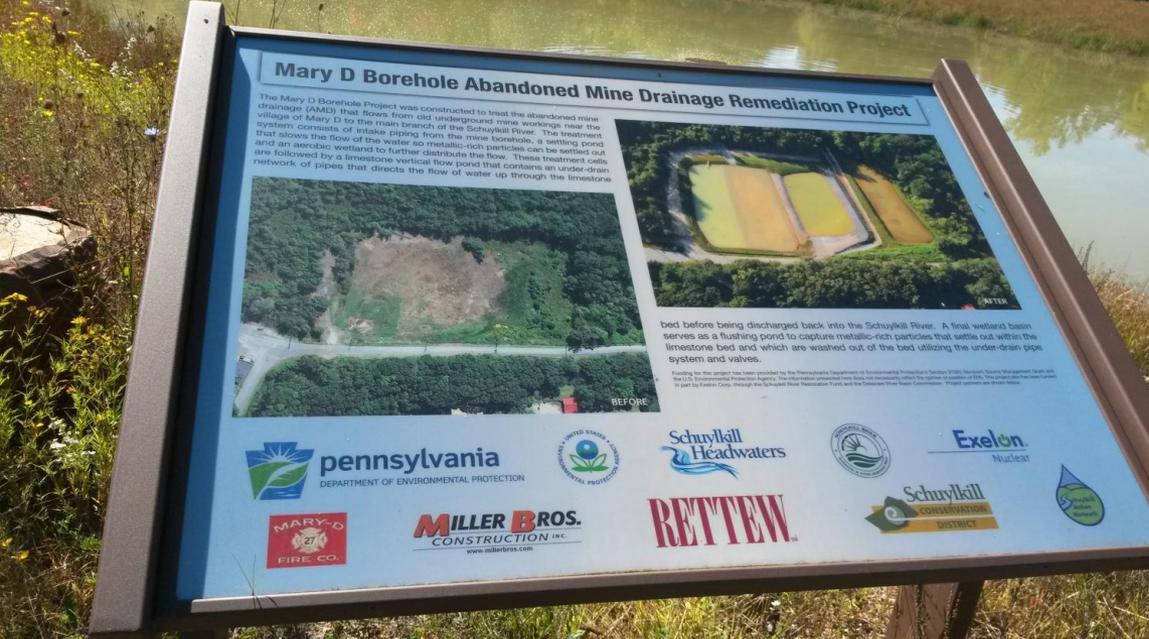




Locust Lake State Park is in a clean watershed due to the topography. The dam was constructed to create a reservoir for recreation. Locust Creek supplies Locust Lake with water. The meanders in this creek clearly show the depositional features of point bars and the erosional features of cut banks.





Watershed groups have been awarded many grants in this area to deal with AMD issues caused by anthracite mining.

This passive remediation project takes AMD high in iron through a series of wetlands to all the iron time to oxidize and precipitate. Spreaders help oxygenate the water and limestone is used to increase the pH of the water before it discharges back into the natural system.





John Hadesty of Lehigh Anthracite gave us a tour of the crushing and sorting facility. Anthracite from this mine is used for filtration, welding, stainless steel creation, the carbon in tennis rackets, and many other products



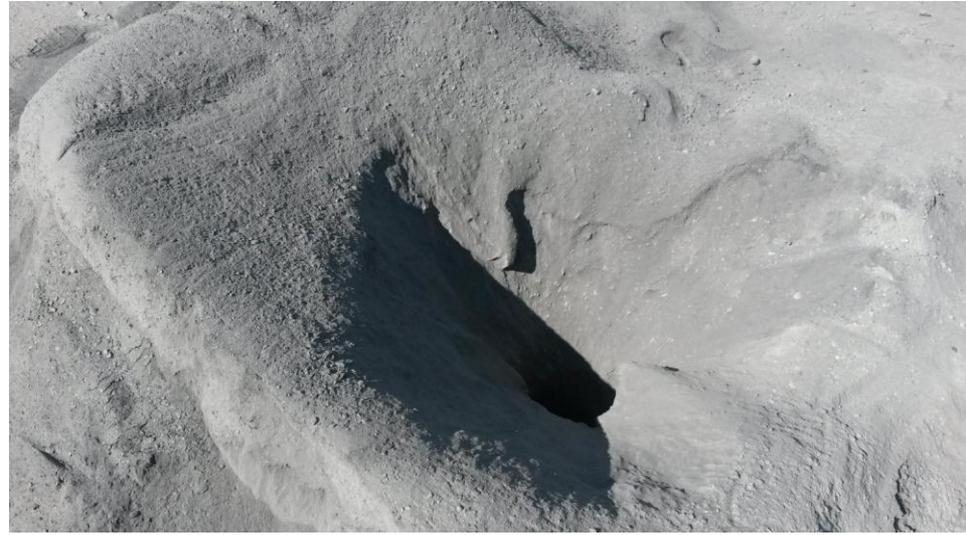


From the overlook of the crushing and sorting facility, we moved on to our second stop in the mine.

Looking down the valley, the bottom rock is visible where the overlying coal has been extracted.

Mudcracks were visible on the ground at this site.





The third stop was at the boreholes for blasting.
John showed us the pit where excavation had occurred earlier this year and explained the process of blasting.





Remnants of the deep mining of coal in this region can still be seen in the bottom rock. The boreholes at this site were drilled in a pattern to fracture the rocks and make excavation possible. A fertilizer-based explosive will be used





The borehole pattern was easy to identify from the top of the equipment. The most recent excavation location showed terrace levels and the folding of the rocks in the side wall.





From the base of the excavation pit, the terraces were visible as were the holes in the bottom rock from deep mining.





Our last stop on the tour was at the old number 8 mine and the haul trucks





Climbing on the haul trucks . . .





The 309 Discharge is a site of active remediation where the water is being treated to increase the pH and remove iron prior to discharge into the Little Schuylkill River.





Following the active treatment, the water flows through a wetland area where iron precipitates prior to entering the Little Schuylkill River.





