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The Cover
Artist Jo Butz of Ligonier works on site at the Monastery Run Project as part of a unique art project that resulted in the exhibit, Creative View of Monastery Run. Story page 4.

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Monastery Run lauded at dedication, celebrated in 'Creative View' art show

With strong praise for the power of local grassroots efforts, representatives of state and federal agencies, along with Saint Vincent College officials and members of the Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition, dedicated the final two wetlands of the Monastery Run Project on Nov. 12.

Against the backdrop of a beautiful fall day, officials looked out over the trio of wetlands now covering about 20 acres and commended the results of the nearly \$2 million Monastery Run project begun five years ago by a broad-based coalition determined

to tackle the problems of drainage seeping from abandoned mines and polluting the Loyalhanna Creek.

Congressman John Murtha said, "Clean water is essential. There's nothing more important in western Pennsylvania than getting our streams cleaned up. I compliment the work you've done in getting everyone involved."

The congressman thanked Saint

Artists offer impressions in exhibit, "Creative View of Monastery Run," story page 4.



As part of the dedication ceremony at the Monastery Run Project's Wetland 1, officials raise a baffle and water enters the wetland. The final two wetlands of the project's three were dedicated at the ceremony.

Vincent, citing in particular "the vision and the imagination" of Saint Vincent College Provost, Br. Norman W. Hippos, O.S.B., a member of the coalition Steering Committee.

Others speaking at the dedication also expressed appreciation. The director of the Office of Surface Mining, Kathy Karpan, coming from her Washington office, praised Monastery Run as a "model" project that helped send a signal from the grassroots level that dealing with mine drainage must be an important national concern. Efforts such as these, she explained, have given impetus to programs such as Appalachian Clean Streams and the American Heritage Rivers program.

State Conservationist Janet Oertly of the Natural Resources Conservation Service said she was "happy to see the results of this work — this leading edge technology. Locally led, this project is a shining example of a partnership effort of federal, state, and college resources. This is phenomenal, and a prime example of what local people coming together can do. Just look at what you've accomplished."

She also recalled the words of the Rev. Earl J. Henry, O.S.B., president of Wimmer Corporation and a member of the coalition Steering Committee, who had urged the newly-formed group in 1993 to use its "creative powers to reclaim the water."

The brief dedication ceremonies were held at both wetlands located off of Beatty Road near Saint Vincent. Wetland 1 is an 8.5-acre, \$500,000 project of the state Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Wetland 2 is a 7.5-acre project undertaken by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at a construction cost of \$162,000.

Others speaking at the dedication included Robert C. Dolence, Deputy Secretary of the DEP's Office of Mineral Resources Management; Byron Thompson, national coordinator of the Rural Abandoned Mine Program of the Natural Resources