

## THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL, NY OPENING OF FALLING WATERS PRESERVE TO THE PUBLIC

*"Genesis begins what might be called God's love affair with all of Creation. The story tells us that God saw all that was created as good." (President, Mary Murray, OP)*



Opening of [Falling Waters Preserve](#). Left to right: Susan Bolitzer, president, Esopus Creek Conservancy; Peter D. Lopez, member, NYS Assembly; Paul Schwartzberg, senior land project manager, Scenic Hudson; Steve Rosenberg, senior vice president, Scenic Hudson; Sister Mary Murray, president, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill; Jamie Welch; Kate Kane, park planner, Scenic Hudson; Greg Helsmoortel, supervisor, Town of Saugerties; Ned Sullivan, president, Scenic Hudson; Fiona Angelini.

*Photo: Robert Rodriguez, jr.*

On Sunday morning, July 24, 2011, at 11 a.m., about 100 members of the public joined representatives of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, Town of Saugerties and [Esopus Creek Conservancy](#) (ECC) and [Scenic Hudson](#) at a ribbon cutting to mark the opening of [Falling Waters Preserve](#), just south of the [Village of Saugerties](#).

The sisters land ethic belief guided their decision to open this land to the public to enjoy the amazing landscapes, trails and views. Named for the two picturesque waterfalls on the property, Falling Waters Preserve will be open each day, dawn till dusk.

Scenic Hudson reached an agreement with the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill to conserve the property and permit public access for five years. The preserve boasts of over one mile of spectacular Hudson Riverfront, a stream, meadows, wetlands and hardwood forest, as well as breathtaking vistas of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains.

*"... There is no doubt that the Dominican Sisters' property, located between Spaulding Lane and Glasco, "matters most" to the residents of Saugerties. An often-heard lament in our town is that so much of the Hudson River Shorefront is not accessible to the public. For this reason, we are most grateful to the Dominican Sisters for this wonderful gift, which now which allows us to walk the trails, experience the tranquility and enjoy expansive views of the River." (Susan Bolitzer, President, Esopus Creek Conservancy)*



*"We have been so pleased to partner with Scenic Hudson. For us—caretakers of land that is God's—we believe that earth's riches are for everyone, and that land should be conserved, restored and shared," said Sister Lorraine LaRocca, Executive Team leader of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill.*

*"We and all who love this area along the Hudson owe a debt to the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill for granting Scenic Hudson a conservation easement on their property and agreeing to allow public access on land they cherish. The Sisters have guaranteed that this significant property will remain unspoiled for the near future and that visitors will be able to experience the tranquility and inspiration of its natural treasures," said Ned Sullivan, president of Scenic Hudson.*

"We at Esopus Creek Conservancy have been truly proud to collaborate with Scenic Hudson and the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. This project is part of a larger campaign of Scenic Hudson's "To Save the Land that Matters Most" in the Hudson Valley."