

SAVE OUR
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

SOS NEWS

Summer 2022

Vol. 31 No. 1

SOS News is the newsletter of Save Our Seminary, the nonprofit organization dedicated to communicating the history of National Park Seminary and promoting preservation and public enjoyment of its buildings, artifacts, and landscape since 1989.

Tours Continue

The tour season of 2021 was a good one for SOS, most likely because everyone was glad to have an outside activity after a year of being inside due to the pandemic. A total of 144 people attended our 9 monthly public tours and 114 people attended 9 private group tours.

So far this year both the public and private tours continue to be popular, and 2 private tours are already scheduled for the fall. The tours are one of the best ways to learn the history of the National Park Seminary site. Check out our remaining 2022 tour dates and other details on our [website](#).

Our most popular tour so far, though, was the special guided tour of the Glen in April. Thirty-three people signed up to hear the history of the Glen and see its unique features such as a grand stone staircase, a spring enclosure with bench, original paved paths, and massive statues. For those who missed this spring tour, we will have another special tour of the Glen on November 13th. Watch for details in the coming months.



Crossing the stream during the special tour of the Glen. An original paved path leads uphill.

SOS Website Redesigned

We are excited that SOS now has a redesigned [website](#). We hope you will find the new design more pleasing and easier to find topics. We have also added a new section called Preservation Activities, with pages about the [Glen](#) and [Sculpture](#), which will be updated with additional information and activities.

One recent addition to the Glen page is a Google [map of the Glen](#) that takes you on a virtual tour through photos of the past and present so you can see exactly where each feature is or was. This year we plan to do a similar map for the sculptures on the site.

Ballroom Windows Restored

SOS is pleased to announce that, after two years, the restoration of the Ballroom stained-glass windows is complete. Of the total 78 exterior windows, 53 of the most deteriorated ones were remade in the exact pattern of the originals with the original stained glass re-installed. Thankfully only a very few pieces of the glass had to be replaced. The other windows were repaired in place. Just having clean windows has brightened the entire Ballroom! This critical and important restoration project was partially funded by a \$100,000 grant to SOS from the Maryland Historical Trust.



Glen Feasibility Study Completed

SOS contracted with an engineering firm to determine the feasibility of preserving three key yet seriously deteriorating features of the Glen—the Grand Staircase, the Grotto with the hillside above it, and the bridge connecting to the Spring structure. This study was mostly funded with a grant from Preservation Maryland and Maryland Historical Trust and some funding from the National Park Seminary Master Association. The good news from this feasibility study is that these features can be restored, although they will require significant funding.

The Grand Staircase is especially important because it provides the main entrance to the Glen, but without the repair of the eroding hillside above it, its restoration would be pointless. The feasibility study provides a step-by-step process to stabilize the hillside so that the staircase restoration would be successful and the hillside would not eventually end up in the Grotto below it.

The repair of the bridge leading to the Spring—because it is located a short distance from the hillside, Grotto, and staircase—could be a separate project to undertake and fund sooner. The SOS Glen Restoration Committee is therefore proposing this as a first step in the process of restoring these special features. Watch for more information on how you can help make this project happen.