



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Scenic Loop- Boerne Stage Alliance

This month's member group spotlight
features

GEAA Member Group:
Scenic Loop - Boerne Stage Alliance

The mission of the Scenic Loop - Boerne Stage Alliance is to preserve the original nature of the Scenic Loop Rd, Boerne Stage Road, and Toutant-Beauregard Road, rich with legend, history and a fragile environment subject to an immediate danger of losing its unique character and tranquility. With pursuit

of an historic designation for the 13-mile corridor, stretching from Hwy 16 to Boerne, the organization was launched in 2006.

During their 9-year journey, they sought and received numerous letters of support from local, county and state organizations, as well as resolutions from the cities of Grey Forest and Helotes, and the Bexar County Historical Commission. Located at the base of the Hill Country, Scenic Loop - Boerne Stage - Toutant-Beauregard is a winding byway that was created as a touring route for San Antonians in the 1920s. After nearly a century of sprawl, the remaining scenic and historic route is about one fifth of its original distance. The residents fought widening the loop in 1985 and continue to oppose development. This Corridor was the first road to be added to the 2009 Most Endangered List. It was at this same time that, GEAA was opposing several proposed developments in the area and we quickly realized the benefit of an alliance.

The first legislative attempt by Rep David Leibowitz in 2009 failed, but Rep Lyle Larson's HB 1499 for historic designation was successful. GEAA was instrumental in helping with our fundraising and we will always be eternally grateful. On July 27, 2015 the Texas Historical Commission marker was unveiled. The marker was placed on an enormous limestone plinth located at the intersection of the three roads. Although the marker served to provide a quick overview of the area's history, it does little to protect the roads.

Early in our investigation of the historic sites, farms, ranches and cemeteries along the Corridor, we realized a larger threat - our water! Although the road lies within the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone, the karst environment provides a direct conduit to the Edwards Aquifer, and development, particularly any with the potential addition of a wastewater plant, threatens all of San Antonio's watershed. Again, we are honored to partner with GEAA in our unified efforts to continue our mission in protecting our very fragile and important environment.

4/30/24