

## Ginny Rust's Opinion of Caves

I've always appreciated the sense of raw purity and simplicity a cave seemed to offer. It's easy to allow yourself to be drawn into the peaceful darkness and soothing damp. However, after my first morning of cave *research* this quiet appreciation quickly turned to awe of the complexities and wide diversity that appeared every time you bothered to look close enough. The idea of simplicity soon vanished; it was amazing to distinguish the characteristics and features of one area only to find that just around the corner offered a completely different pattern of features. Taking the time to note these differences and relate features from different areas to each other opens your eyes to a thriving environment where pools overflowed and interacted, walls dripped and grew new features, and precipitants converged from ceiling to floor. Caves offer a glimpse of a world nearly untarnished by humans. By studying them, you fulfill that part of yourself that yearns for true reality of life, one unfamiliar to the interference of man. It was an unexpectedly fulfilling experience to be a part of these studies; I'd like to do it again someday.