

Bob's first Trip to Peppersauce

by Robert Jacaruso

My first visit to Peppersauce Cave was exciting. Although it was not my first visit to a cave, it was, however my first visit to a cave which was not protected from the public. I realized very quickly, why we have to put restrictions on viewing these natural wonders.

I did not know what to expect as I crawled through the small entrance at the mouth of the cave. The journey into the cave was exciting. After crawling in and going through some small passages, I felt the humidity in the air which was caused by dripping water, which also made the cave slippery and I had to watch my footing.

I was awed by the beauty of the cave but saddened by the trash left behind by people and the graffiti which scarred the walls. I saw many places where formations were broken off and all that was left behind was a scar where once stood a beautiful creation of nature.

After viewing the damage left behind by other visitors, I understood why Jim asked me not to disclose the location of the cave to others. I now understood why mother nature hides many of the entrances to her underground cathedrals. It's her way of protecting the beauty of her caverns. Despite the damage left behind by earlier visitors, the cave still maintained its beauty and mystery.

I saw many passages which were off shoots to the larger rooms and as we entered one of the rooms, we startled a couple of bats which started to flutter around over our heads.

The serenity of the cave was overpowering, especially when we turned off our lights. Sitting in total darkness, the cave took on a life of its own. I could feel the energy of the cave and hear the sounds of water, as droplets fell from above, to the floor below.

As I sat in the total darkness, I realized that this cave existed for thousands of years and only a select few have been priviliged to experience it's wonder and serenity.



