

Biographical Sketch
Prof. John R. Marquart
Department of Chemistry
Eastern Illinois University

Dr. John R. Marquart is a Professor of Chemistry at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois and a Visiting Professor and Adjunct Lecturer of Chemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign.

His area of research involves applications chemistry to environmental problems. He is active in a wide variety of field-based conservation and restoration projects involving subterranean environments (caves and mines). He often works in collaboration with state agencies, such as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources; various federal agencies, such as the USDA Forest Service; and private conservation groups, such as Bat Conservation International. He is past-president and an executive officer of the Near Normal Grotto, the mid-Illinois chapter of the National Speleological Society. His interest in caves dates from his early childhood when his family took summer vacations in cave areas of Indiana and Kentucky and he would join his older brother in cave exploring. Beginning as a sport, his interest in caves has broadened to include the scientific and technical aspects of caves and caving.

Prof. Marquart holds a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Arizona in Tucson and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. After obtaining his Ph.D., he worked as a research chemist for Shell Development Company in Emeryville, California (five years), taught at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia (10 years), and currently teaches at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston (25 years). He also regularly serves the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign as a Visiting Professor and Adjunct Lecturer of Chemistry (31 years). Since becoming an ACS tour speaker in 1995, Dr. Marquart has presented more than 100 society sponsored lectures on cave science in 40 states.