

Nature

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and visiting his uncle's farm in northern Minnesota, where he would milk the cows and gather eggs.

As a teenager, Sharp's craving for open spaces was heightened by the cramped setting of school classrooms.

"I used to get far afield as much as I could," he relates, his serious expression softening to a boyish grin. "I always wanted to be outdoors, not at a desk."

By the time he enrolled at the University of Minnesota, Sharp had already decided on an environmentally related

career, and obtained a bachelors of science degree in forestry and wildlife management.

Shortly after graduation, in 1933, during the land acquisition boom by the government, Sharp landed his first job appraising land for the U.S. Forest Service. He later worked with the fishery staff at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources before joining the Navy in 1943 where he served as an intelligence officer during World War II, helping locate bomb targets.

Following the war, Sharp joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he was employed until he retired in 1970. These days, Sharp

stays busy with volunteer and paid consulting work.

Working with school

children is one of his favorite pastimes, suggests his wife, who continually interjects on



"Bob Sharp is a valuable resource to the entire community, not only because of his love of nature, but because of his knowledge and long years of professional experience in natural resources."

—Kim Cordell

executive director of the Laguna Foundation.



his behalf while ostensibly gardening a patch of earth a few feet away.

"He really gets involved with the kids," she says.

With an indulging smile Sharp acknowledges his wife's comment and recalls a recent outing at the Laguna where he helped third through fifth graders from Pine Crest Elementary School plant trees.

"I was going to give them a long speech that day, but they didn't want to hear it. They just wanted to plant," he says.

And just what would he convey to a willing audience about environmental consciousness in light of this week's Earth Day observance?

"The picture of the future isn't very rosy," says Sharp, offering a brief list of what he considers to be critical global environmental concerns, things like depletion of salmon from commercial fisheries and poor forestry and river preservation practices, and the over-harvesting of timber in the U.S. as well as the destruction of the rain forests in Brazil.

"Let's make every day Earth Day," he says. "Let's keep these problems in mind in all our activities."

Adds Dorothy, "If we could all just realize that as individuals we are very small cogs. But if we work with other cogs we could really make something happen."