

A Memory of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, by Robert Sharp, President Emeritus of the Laguna Foundation

Bob Sharp has devoted many years to the study, protection and restoration of the Laguna wetlands and is regarded highly for his environmental expertise, his softspoken leadership, and his dedicated advocacy to seeing the Laguna one day preserved as a national wildlife refuge.

When asked about a memory of the Laguna, Bob recalls planting trees with third through fifth grade kids. He was formulating a long speech about the importance of habitat restoration and native plants to the complex wetlands ecosystem. "But they didn't want to hear it. They just wanted to plant trees," he says and chuckles softly. "Just like me. I used to get as far outdoors as I could, not at a desk. The Laguna can be a unique outdoor school room, and laboratory for the naturally curious."

"And by the way, I say this every year about this time. Let's make every day Earth Day. I'd like to know that we are smart enough and caring enough to not misspend a valuable portion of the legacy of our natural surroundings that our children's children will inherit."

"I have two young great grandchildren. I look forward to introducing them to the Laguna on their next visit. Maybe we can plant trees or spot a playful otter. I don't make speeches anymore and don't think I need to. They'll get it"