

Laguna advocate is honored by foundation

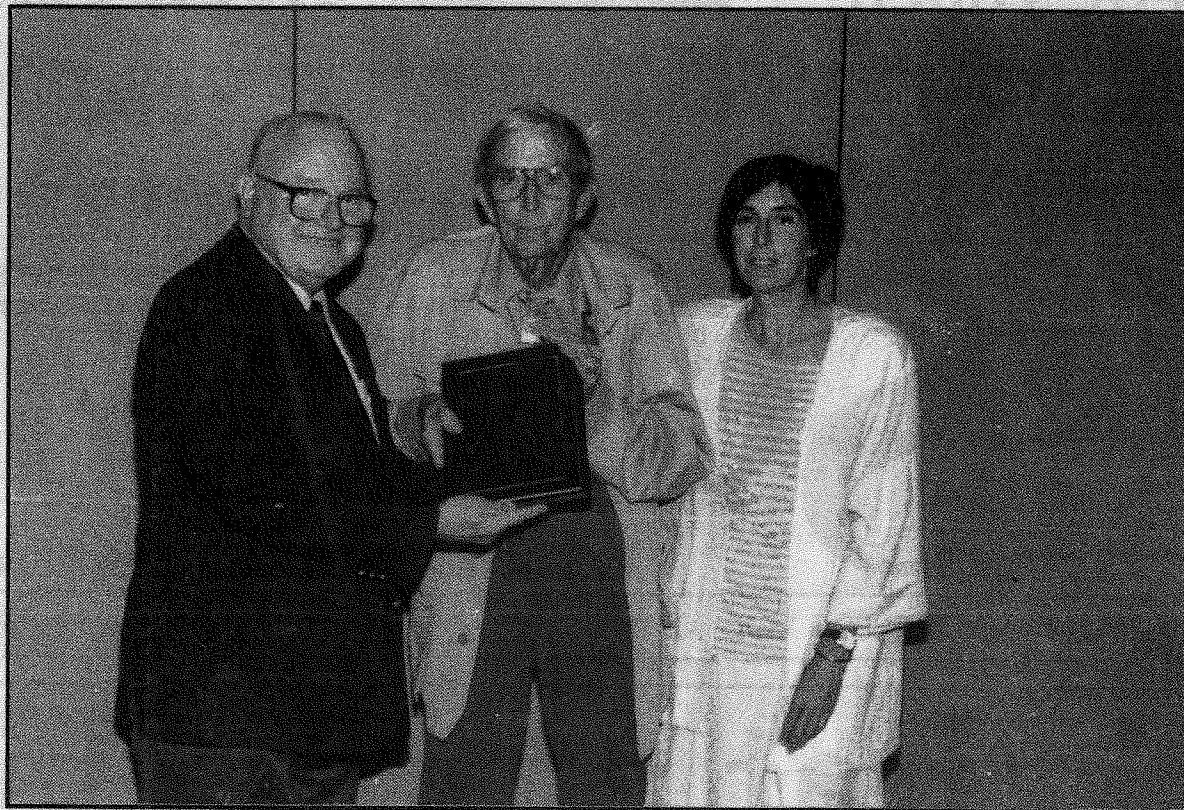
SEBASTOPOL — His wife, Dorothy, calls him "the Laguna's grandfather," but to the host of people who have joined in his continuing efforts to preserve and restore the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Robert W. Sharp is remembered as an inspiring leader, tireless advocate and dedicated environmentalist. His efforts were recognized last Thursday evening at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation.

On behalf of the board, President William E. Haigwood presented Sharp with a plaque reading: "Honoring Robert W. Sharp, Elected to the office of PRESIDENT EMERITUS By unanimous vote of the Board of Directors in Appreciation for exemplary service and inspiring leadership, April 25, 1996, The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation."

Featured on the plaque was a reproduction of the heron that decorates the foundation's letterhead.

Sharp was a member of the original Laguna Study Committee appointed 10 years ago by the Sebastopol City Council and was a Charter Director of the foundation subsequently incorporated to pursue programs designed to restore and enhance the Laguna as a wetlands habitat and wild game refuge.

Before moving to Sebastopol in 1977 with his wife, the native New Yorker was a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since retiring and moving to Sonoma County, Bob has continued to work as a consultant on fish and wildlife issues both



LAGUNA HONOR — Robert W. Sharp (center) noted biologist and local environmentalist receives plaque naming him "President Emeritus" of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation from President William E. Haigwood (left). With Sharp is his daughter, Cathy Sharp. Sharp is a Charter Director of the Foundation and served as its second president.

for government and private industry. Under his leadership and with the assistance of former CEO Kim Cordell, still active as a technical advisor, The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation has become one of the leaders in developing ecological and environmental programs for restoring the Laguna.

The award was a well-kept surprise, with Bob's daughter, Cathy, recruited to lure her father to the meeting to "assist"

the board in identifying future program objectives. Cathy Sharp is the director of the Family Service Agency in Alameda and a practicing psychotherapist and mental health counselor in the East Bay and Sonoma County.

In presenting the award, Haigwood observed that "a measure of Bob's eloquence and persuasive powers is his success in persuading this real estate broker that one doesn't have to be an environmental whacko to

understand how critical the Laguna wetlands are to the ecosystem and economy of Sonoma County and Northern California!"

The foundation continues to be actively involved in a variety of programs and activities which serve to further the restoration and preservation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa as a wetlands habitat and wildlife preserve and educate the public as to its importance to the area.