



# a natural state

**Artist: Tom Boozer**

## **Video 6: The Land**

Boozer: ...live on Young's Island, which is part of the Meggett...the town of Meggett municipality. And have lived here almost twelve years.

The coast always had a special attraction to, to myself and to my family. All of the natural resources that it offers that inland does not...obviously there's no shrimp or tuna or dolphin that are...that can be found in inland South Carolina. And that was a special thing that we like to do...a lot of off-shore fishing, a lot of shrimping in the creeks, and crabbing. So we eventually moved to the coast from, from Lake Murray, South Carolina, which is right, right above Columbia.

South Carolina is a very special place to me. I was born here. I'm a native South Carolinian, and I love, love my state. I've always enjoyed the opportunities and the resources that it offered, especially the rural areas. And we...I believe South Carolina is still fortunate in having those rural areas.

The rural lowcountry of South Carolina, especially, is very conducive to artists that work with natural materials that enjoy being close to nature. Obviously, my work in making...work in decoys is a...is a tool that I will use in those natural resources around the coast. So it's a...I know it's been an inspiration to me and I, I feel very close to nature when I'm working.

Anybody that really claims to be an artist has a, a very special connection to nature, especially artists that work with natural materials, wood, and hand tools. And, and, again, especially artists, or artisans, that produce a traditional craft.

I was told...I don't remember this, but when I was less than one year old, I was basically thrown in the water and had to...had to swim or not swim. I, I think it probably wasn't quite that dramatic, but, but I've been associated with water from a very, very early age. And it's just...I find a lot of magic in it. I find a lot of comfort in it. And just the association with nature and, and...which water is a big part...is just a special thing...special thing.

*End.*