



# a natural state

**Artist: Tom Boozer**

## **Video 3: Tool Box**

Boozer: This particular box belonged to the late Roger Pinckney, who was a well-known coroner in Beaufort County and was also a superb woodworker. And I obtained this through his son Roger Pinckney IX.

It carries all of the tools that I use, primarily the drawknife, which does the bulk of the work on the shaping of the bodies of the decoys. The drawknife is about a hundred and fifty years old, and did belong to Olin Ballentine, who was my teacher.

And the hatchet...what I call a forearm hatchet...which I use basically like this, is used for real large birds, like a Canada goose or a swan. Something that'll remove the wood quite quickly. This also belonged to Roger Pinckney.

The next tool that is used in, in the succession is a...is a rasp...wood rasp. This belonged to my father and...who was also a woodworker...and it was...it is used to finish out the knife marks and the hatchet marks in the bodies. And it's a very efficient tool.

The next tool then used is a...is a brace. This belonged to my father, who got it from his father. And it's been around quite a while. It's a...it's a Stanley. But it's, it's used to bore the holes in the body to begin the hollowing process. And it's known as a brace. Some people may call it an auger, but a brace and bit is, is also common terminology.

The balance of that hollowing process is done with a lignum vitae mallet. This is a very dense, exotic, rainforest wood.

You'll notice that a lot of my tools are taped up because, using them all day long, the electrical tape gives them a little bit of a cushion and also a little bit better grip when you start sweating real bad.

But the fishtail chisel...you can see this one is well used. This is called "mushrooming." The, the wood in this handle has begun to mushroom. It was used in the process of...the mallet and the...and the fishtail chisel...to do the hollowing process.

One of the other chisels that I use a lot is the one that we, we used a while ago to, to do the primary tail feathers—to cut the joint to the tail feathers and the body.

Obviously, the sharpened stone is extremely important to carry with you to, to keep all of your tools sharp and as efficient as possible.

And then last we have the, the pocketknife. The pocketknife is, is basically just a hand pocket...pocketknife that I've got. Again, taped up to, to cushion it during the day and also to keep it from slipping when, when my hands are wet. And, again, you keep these extremely sharp and as efficient as possible to, to remove the wood.

*End.*