

# *Let's Build a Pond*



by Fred Alson

# Materials List:



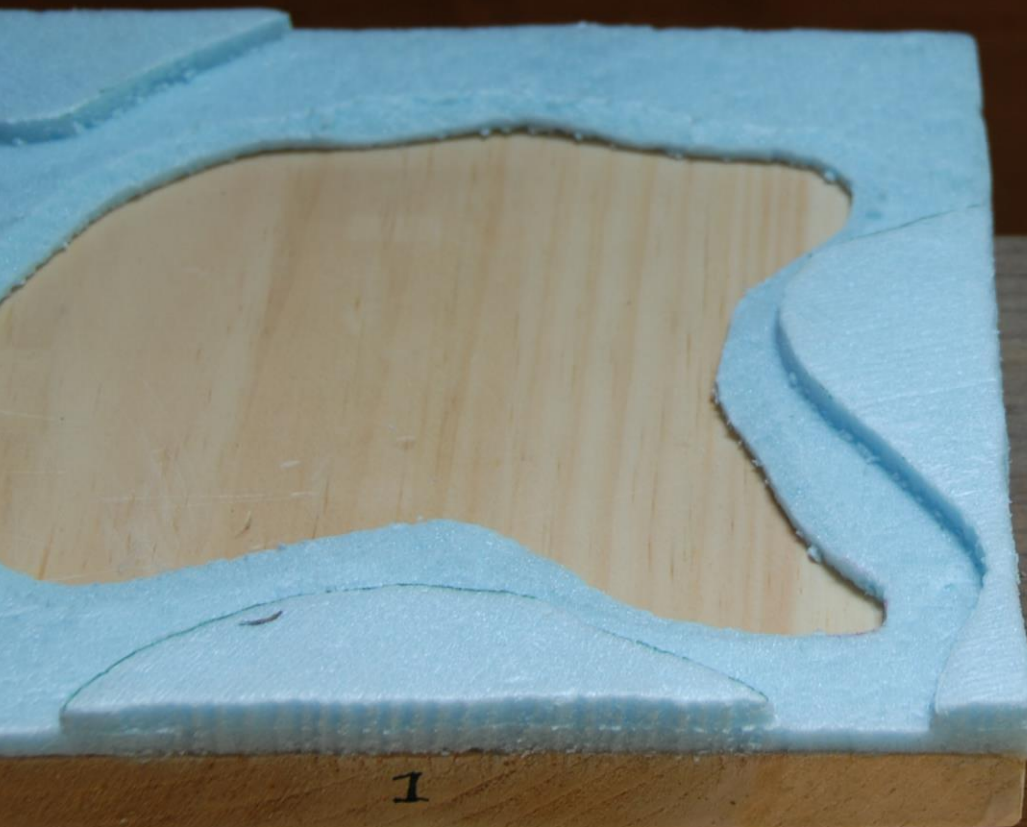
- Wood base
- Foam Board
- Hot Glue & Gun
- Sculpt-a-mold
- Water-based Paints
- EnviroTex Lite
- Groundfoam: in various shades, sizes, textures, etc.
- Tall Grass
- #25 insulated wire
- Wax paper
- Hole Punch
- Tree Armatures
- Paint Brushes
- Modeling Knife
- Wire Stripper
- Figures

# Step #1 **Shape and Design**

*Cut out the pond's shape in ¼ inch foam board with modeling knife*

*Attach to base board with hot glue gun.*

*Using additional pieces of ¼ inch foam board build up terrain around your pond as desired. Fix in place with hot glue gun.*



*Use your Modeling Knife to taper the foam board edges bordering the pond to contour the banks so they slope down to the water .*

**Step #1 Completed**



***At the end of Step #1 your pond project should look like this.***

# Step #2 **Mold and Contour**

*Use Sculpt-a-Mold to build up the ground to taper the different layers of foam board so they have a smooth, flowing profile, thus eliminating their “terraced” appearance.*



*I added additional Sculpt-a-mold in a thin layer to one end of the pond to make it shallower to provide a place where a stand of cattails might grow.*

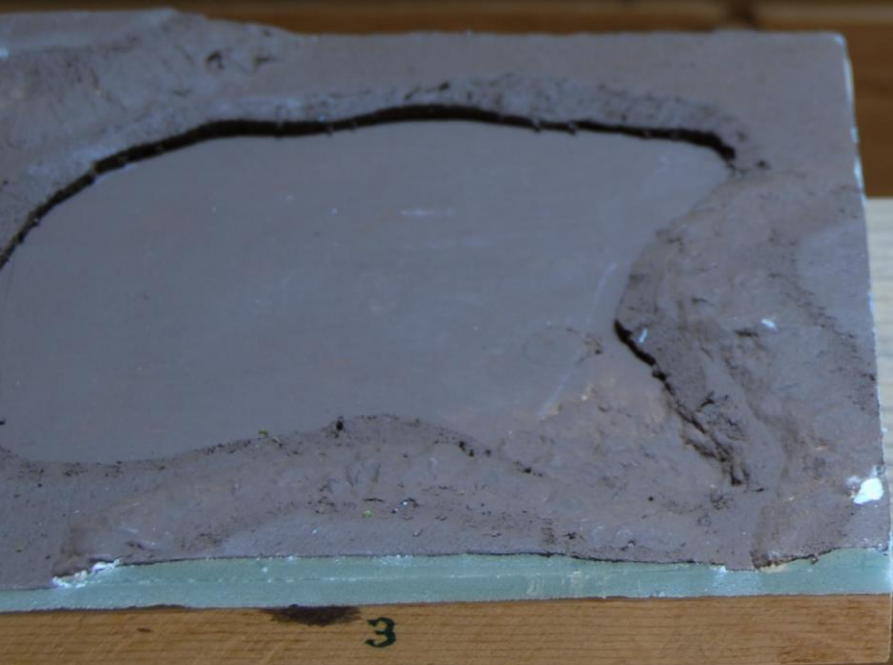
**Step #2 Completed**



*The contoured banks of your pond should now look like this,*

# Step #3 Background Paint

*Use a water-based paint with a ground color of your choice and paint the entire surface of the ground foam, Sculpt-a-mold, and the surface of the pond. This step will seal the foam board from the EnviroTex “water” that will be added later that sometimes etches away at the foam. Select a pleasing “earth” color that will also represent the “dirt” of the banks and the soil that will be visible between the ground foam “vegetation” that you will be adding later.*



**Step #3 Completed**

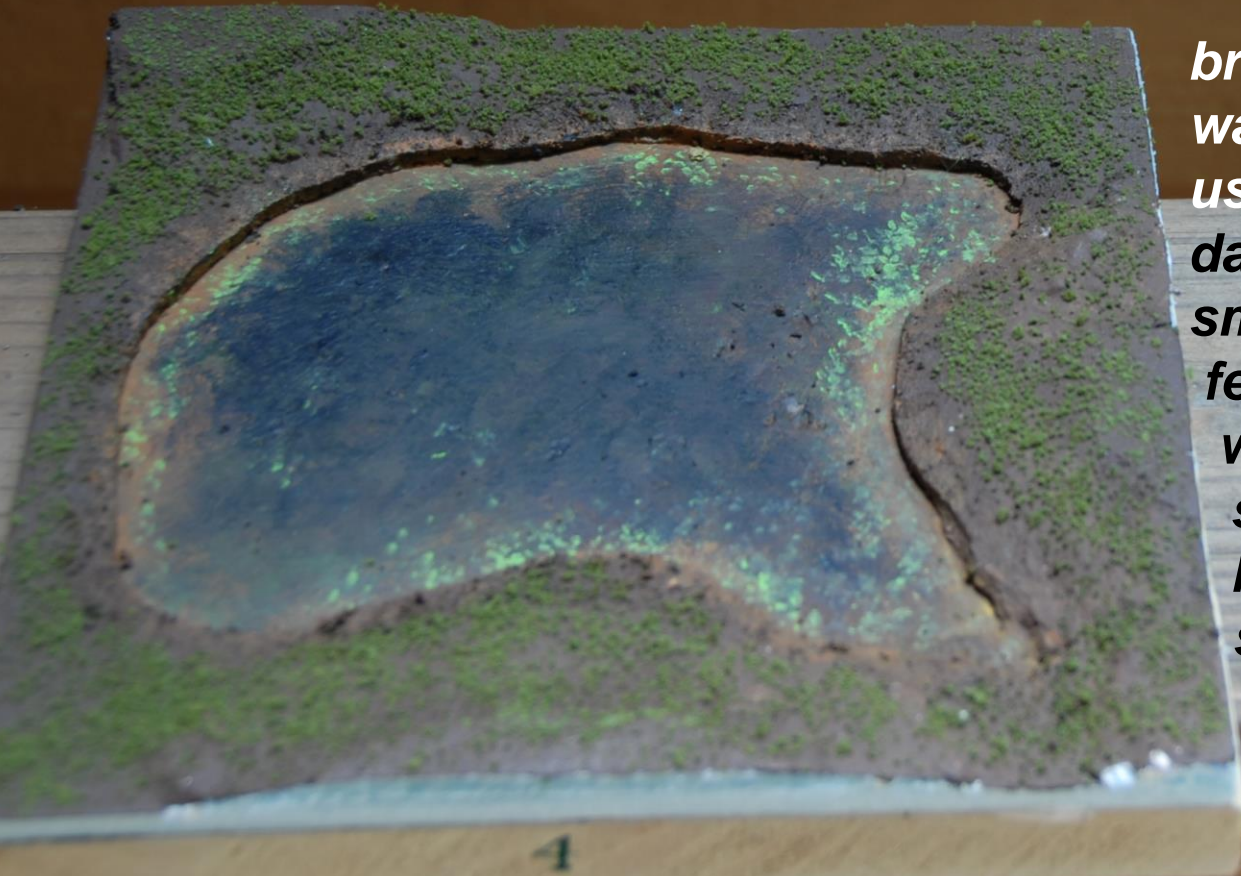




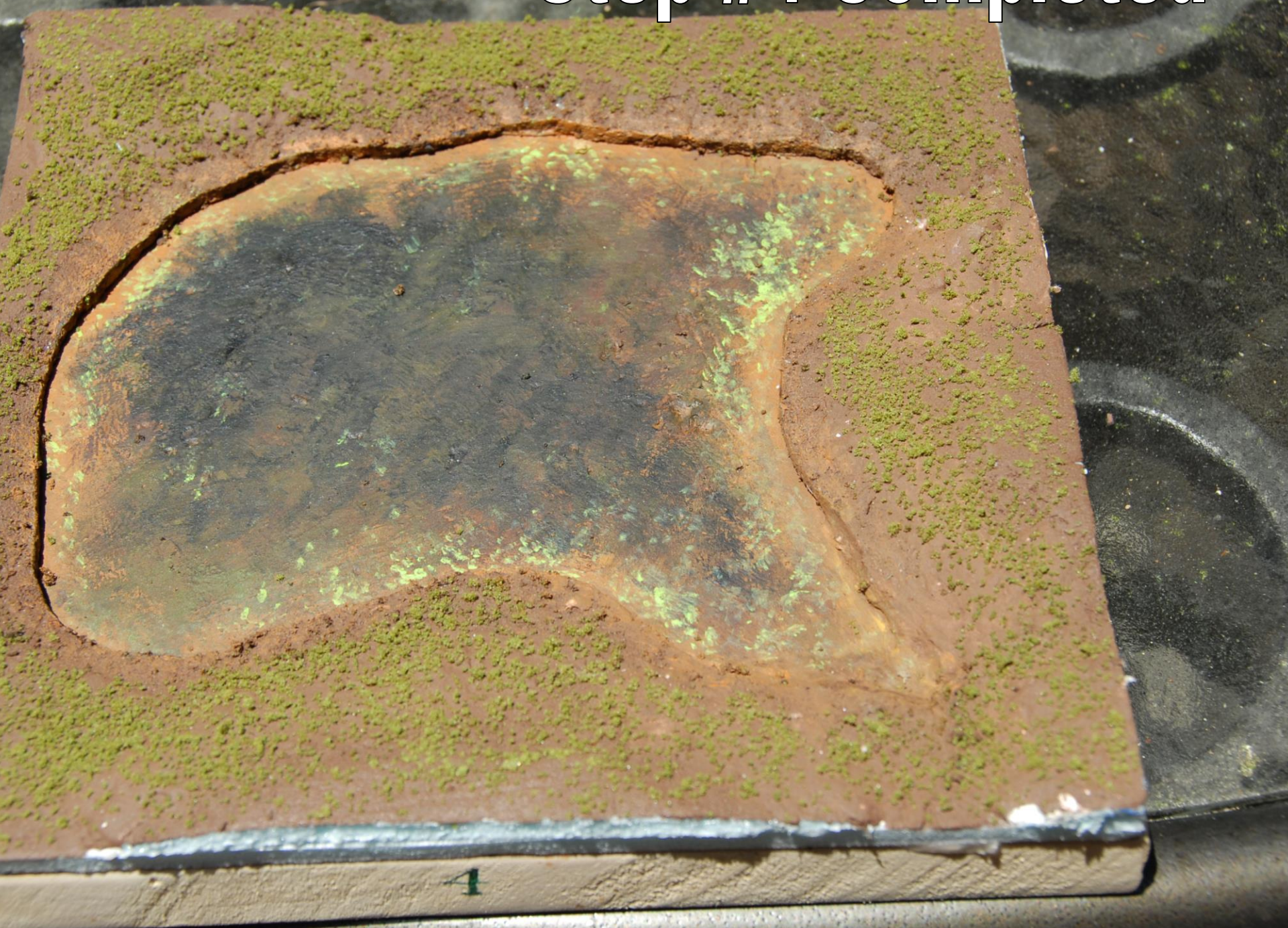
# Step #4 **Paint the Bottom; Add Some Plants**

*Using water-based paints paint the bottom of the pond. I use Payne's gray for the darkest color to simulate the deepest depths of the pond and blend in lighter colors of browns and greens (never blue) for the shallower*

*sections. Use a pale brown for the shallowest water near the banks. I used a bright green paint dapped on in a series of small dots to suggest a few aquatic plants in the water. When you are satisfied with your pond's benthic zone add some sprinkles of ground foam "vegetation" to the ground around the shoreline and beyond.*



Step #4 Completed



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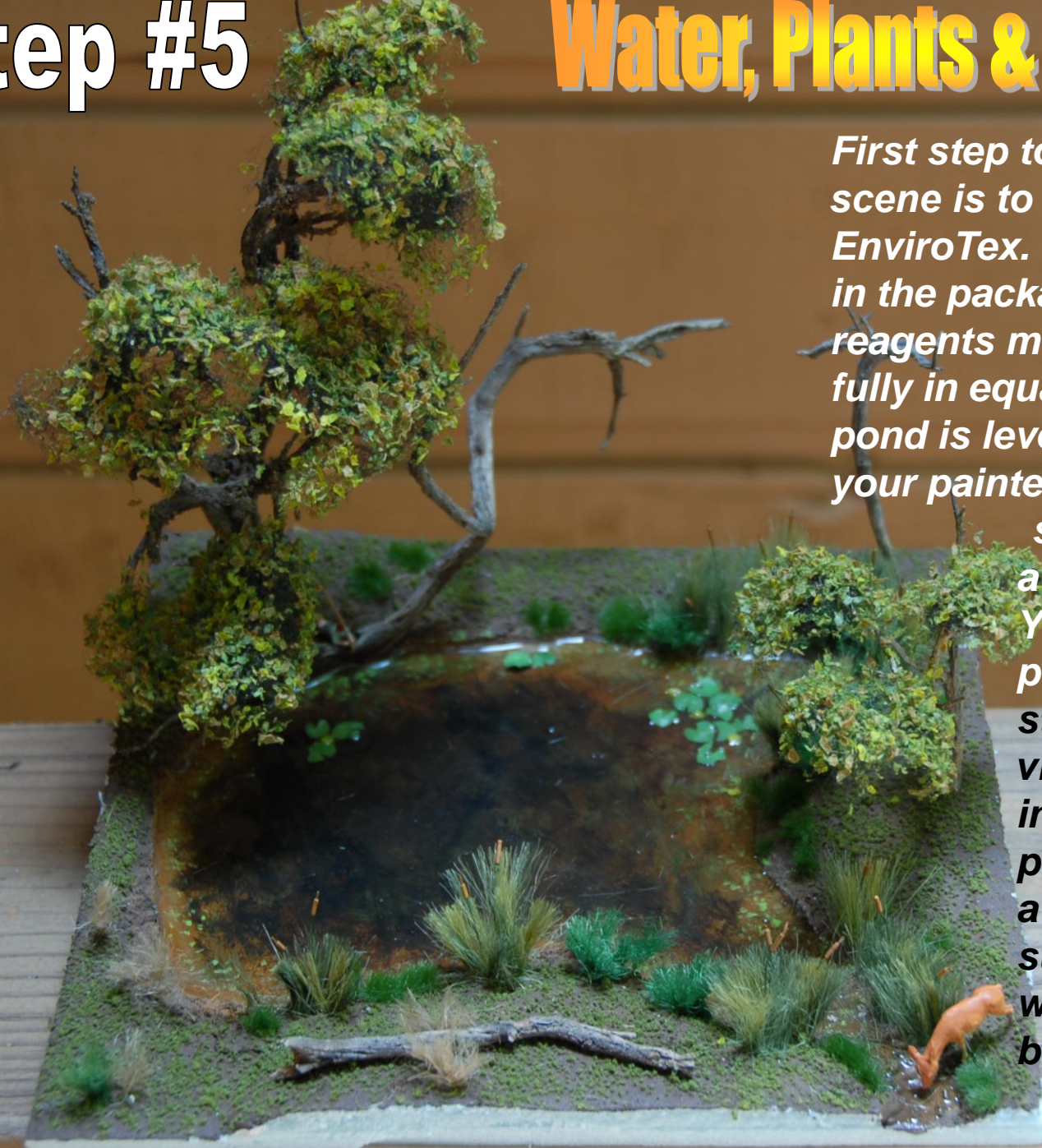
# Step #5

# Water, Plants & Figures

*First step to finishing your pond scene is to add the “water” using EnviroTex. Follow the directions in the package and mix the two reagents measuring them carefully in equal amounts. Be sure your pond is level and pour the mixture into your painted pond*

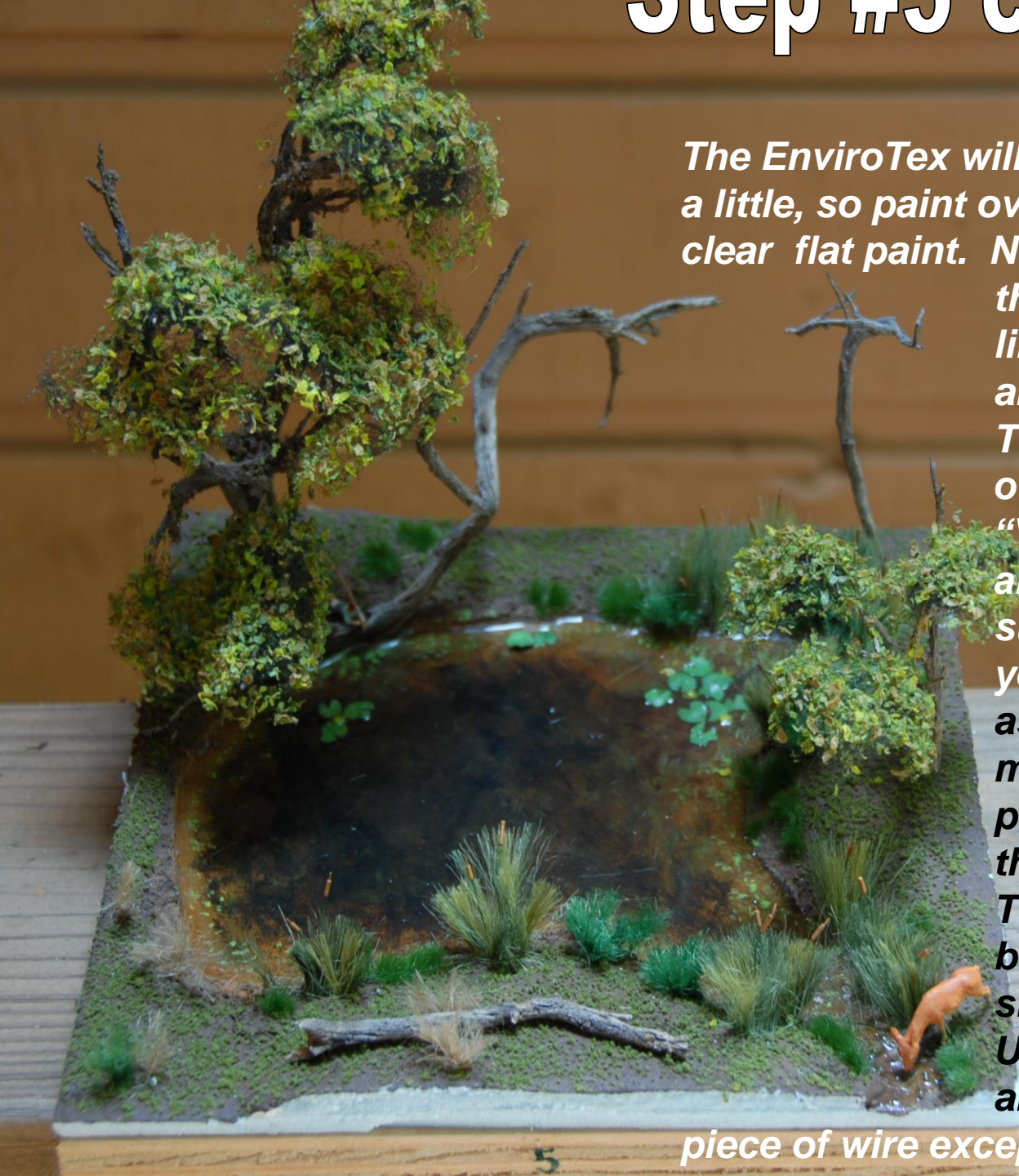
*surface and spread to a depth of 1/8 inch. You can use a toothpick, dowel, or small stick to spread the viscous “water” mix into all corners of your pond. Blowing through a straw onto the surface of the water will remove the air bubbles.*

*Now set the pond aside overnight to let the resin mix harden.*



# Step #3 continued

*The EnviroTex will tend to creep up the banks a little, so paint over those areas with a little clear flat paint. Now add the scenery to make the final touches. I added lily pads by taking wax paper and painting a section green. Then using a hole punch push out the "pads". Snip a little "V-shaped" notch in one side and glue them to your pond's surface. A few small pieces of yellow ground foam will serve as blossoms. The cattails are made using tall grass and placing it on the banks and in the shallow end of the pond. The heads of the cattails can be created using very fine, single-stranded insulated wire. Use a wire stripper to remove all the insulation from a cut piece of wire except the last 1/8 inch. Paint the*



# Step #5 continued

*I added a couple of living trees and a dead snag or two using sage brush armatures. Black polyfoam fibers were stretched thin and glued to the branches and the "leaves" were sprinkled on and secured with liberal coats of hair spray.*

*Be sure to cover the surface of the pond prior to spraying to protect its shiny surface. Now, add any additional shrubs, grasses, logs, debris, figures and other details and enjoy your pond.*



# Step #5 completed

*A boy fishes in the shade of a tree while a deer takes a cool drink*

*How did your pond turn out ?*



# POND PROJECT

*Here's one  
last view of  
our pond in  
the sunshine*

**Hanny Modeling**

