

DUCK BOX PREPARATION

BY WADE FLETCHER | PHOTOS BY JOEY FRAZIER

A limited number of wood duck boxes are available each year at no charge from the SCDNR. You can find the application for duck boxes at www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/waterfowl/woodduck. This is an easy project that you can use to introduce young hunters to the wonders of wildlife conservation.



STEP ONE:

Measure and cut 4x4 wooden post to the correct length with your chainsaw. Next you can make a point on the end that that you will drive into the ground.

STEP TWO:

With your post lying flat, maybe on saw horses, place the box about 2 inches from the top of the post and drill a hole in the lower base for the first of two a lag bolts for attaching the box to the post. For now, go ahead and attach this lag bolt with a ratchet and socket to hold the box steady.





STEP THREE:

Now drill a smaller hole in the post just under the base of the box and put in a small bolt (1/4 x 3 inch bolt). This will serve as a rest for the box when you get in the field, taking the weight out of your hands as you are attempting to install your duck box.

STEP FOUR:

Now, open the side door of your box and drill another hole for the second lag bolt that will completely attach your box to the post.



STEP FIVE:

With your duck box securely attached to the 4x4 post, flip the post over so the box faces the floor. Drive two nails into the back of the duck box beside the post. These will make alignment much easier in the field.



STEP SIX:

Now remove the box from the post for transport and installation. Don't forget to take along wood shavings to make a soft nest for the ducks.



STEP SEVEN:

Once you arrive at your selected location, you and a friend will need ladder and a heavy sledge hammer to drive the post into the ground.



STEP EIGHT:

Once you drive your post into the ground, attach the predator guard with a few galvanized large head roofing nails.

STEP NINE:

Rest the box on the small bolt installed into the post earlier and push it against the post using the nails in the box back as an alignment guide.



STEP TEN:

Using the ratchet and socket, install the lag bolts into the predrilled holes. Once your box is secure, fill it with the wood shavings.

Wade Fletcher is a retired mechanical engineer and winner of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation's 1976 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year Award for his work and meticulous record keeping with wood duck boxes. He lives in Hartsville.