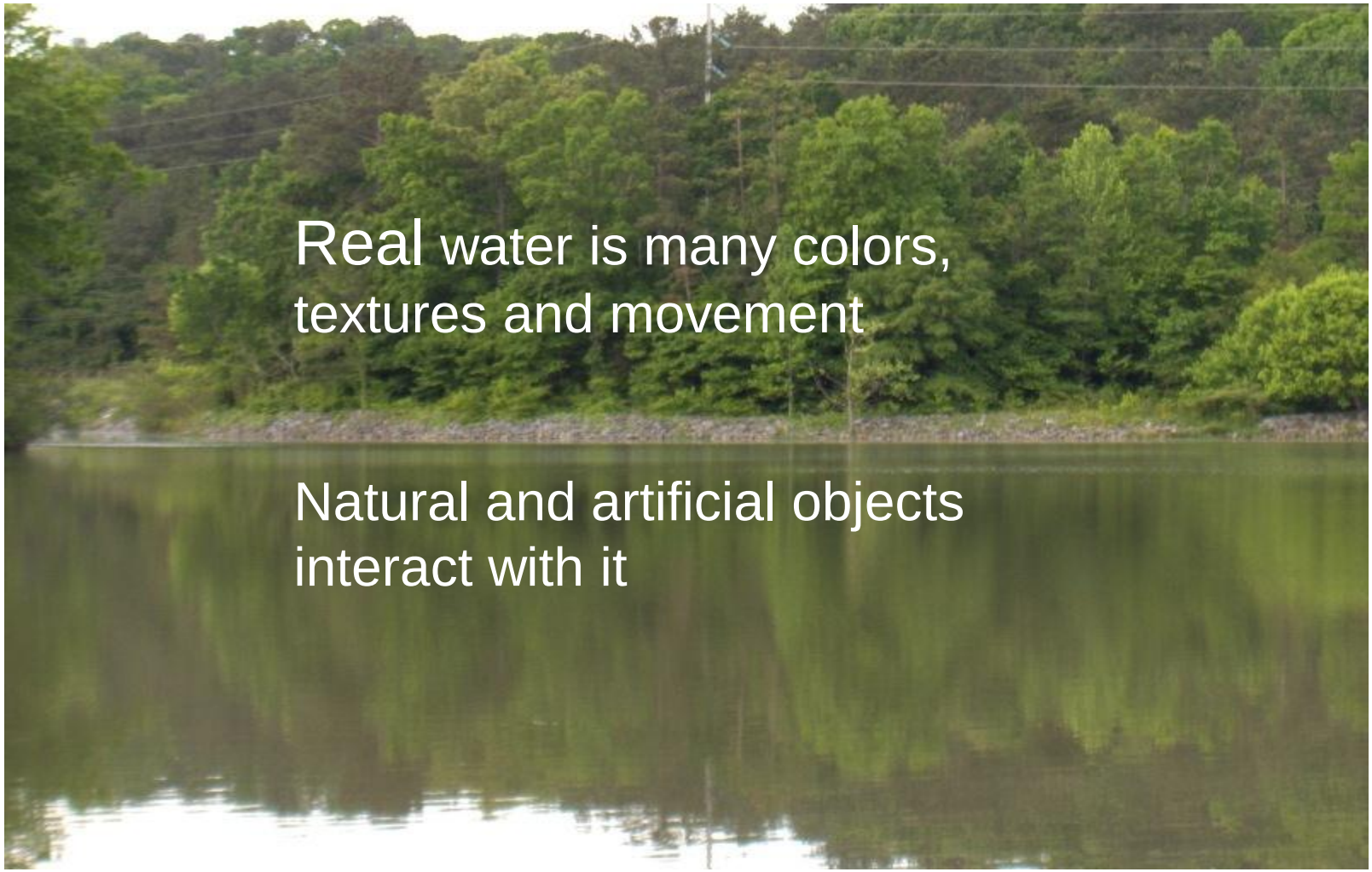
Modeling Water

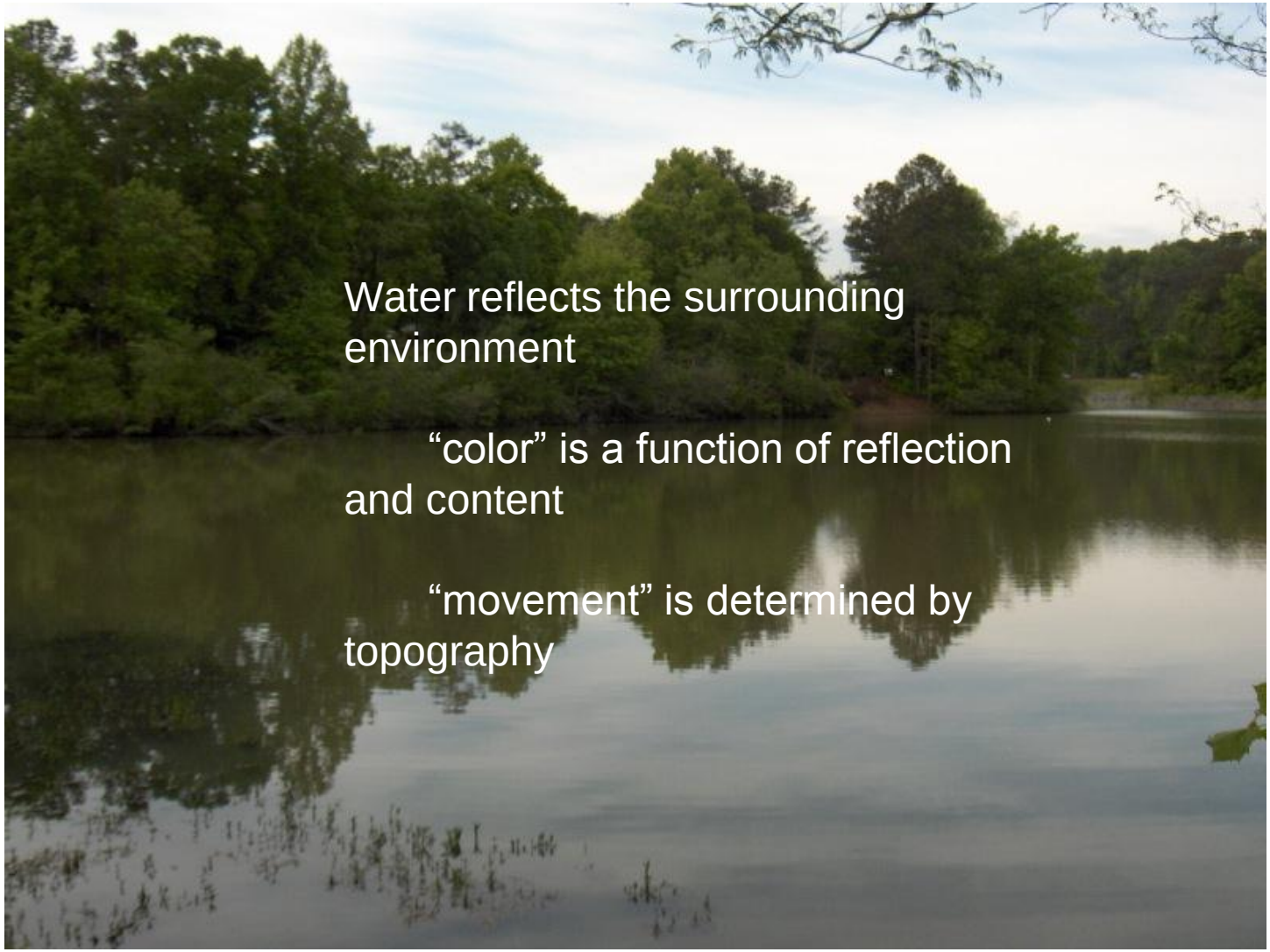
Southeastern Region NMRA

Bob Beaty, MMR

Reflections on a theme



Real Water



Water reflects the surrounding environment

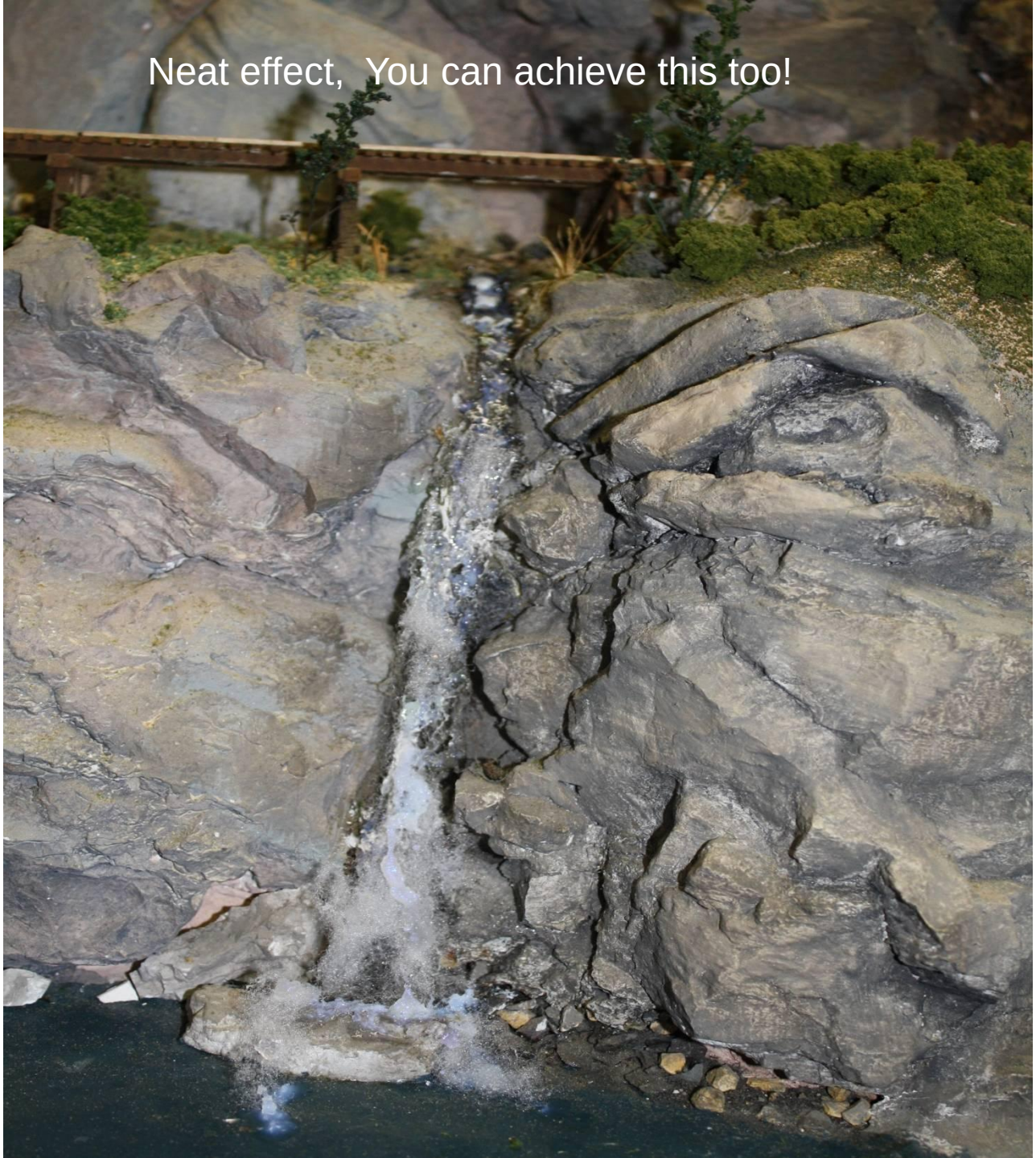
"color" is a function of reflection and content

"movement" is determined by topography

Preparing the modeled area

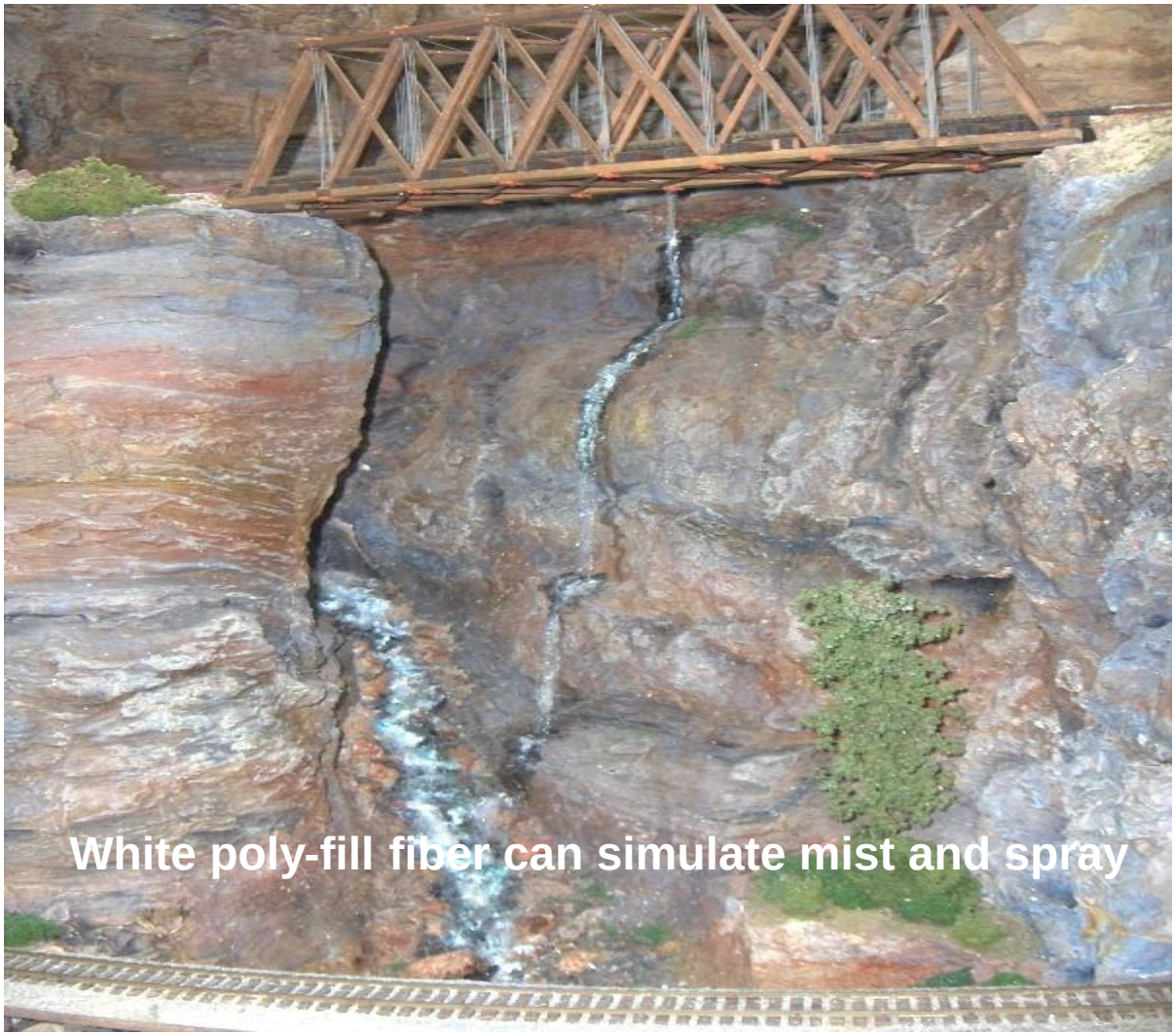
- Prepare the scene's environment first
  - Attention to detail, you will spend more time here
- Prepare the base
  - Foam, Plaster, Plywood. add topographical features
- Prevent leaks
  - products in use today will find the smallest hole
- Add scenic details
  - Ground texture, rocks tree limbs submerged objects

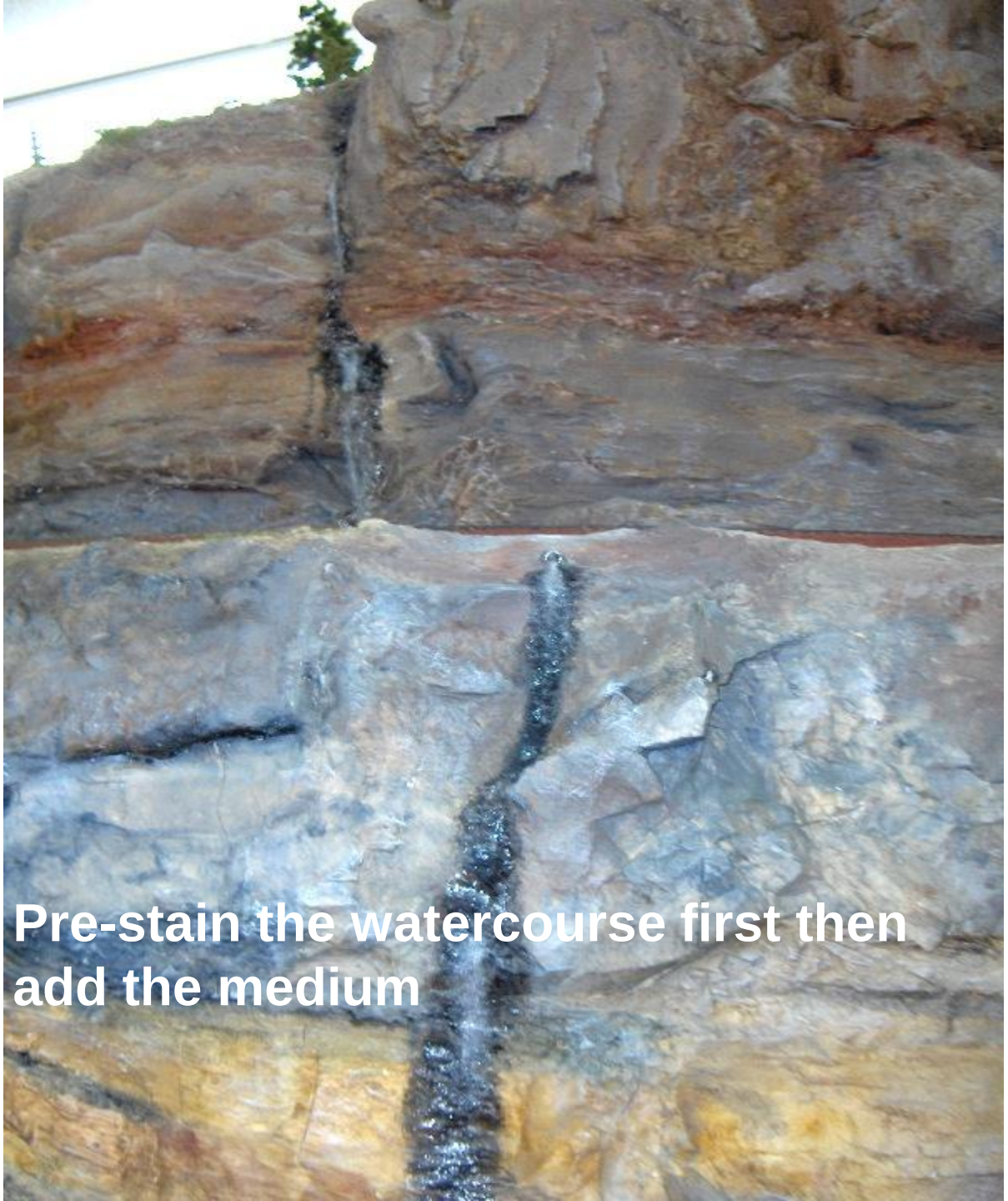
A waterfall can be an interesting effect


Neat effect, You can achieve this too!

Prepare the scene, coloring the rocks and the pool.

Some more Waterfalls




Pre-stain the watercourse first then add the medium

Some Special effects

- The Bottom: add fish, logs, trash, junk, etc
  - Prepare the scene “dry” first then add the medium
- Ripples and Waves
  - Apply gloss Gel Medium after the surface has set
- Rapids and waterfalls
  - Use combination of Gels, white fiberfill and paint
  - Support the water fall with clear acrylic
- Boat wakes
  - Heavy Gloss Gel or clear caulk, accented with paints

These rapids were a “happy accident.” They were supposed to be clear tile caulk

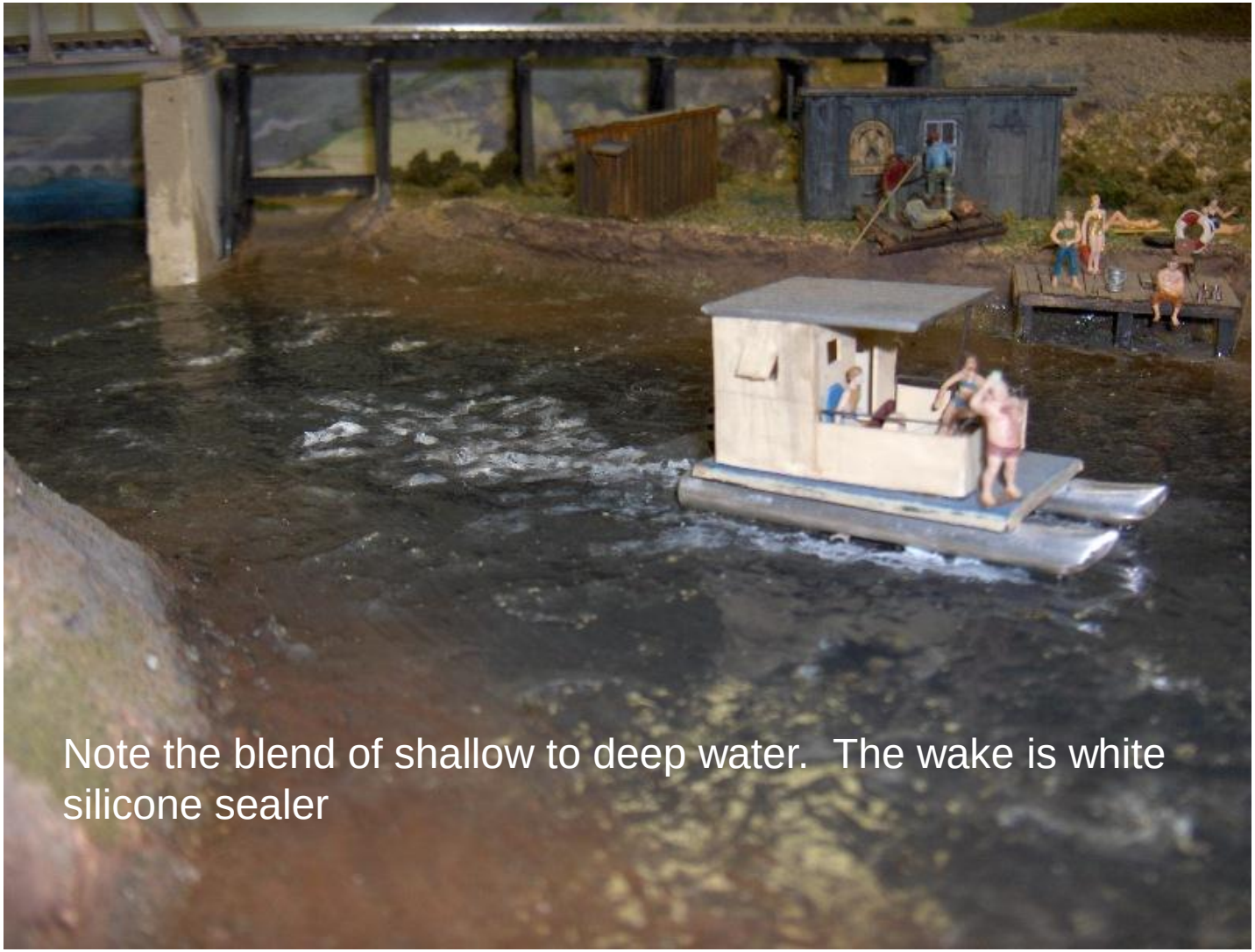
Pouring on the River

- Surface contours (depth) – stacked foam board shapes
- Banks – scultimold and sand with ground foam
- River bed – poured plaster, smoothed and “leaks” sealed
- Painted river – center dark blue black, edges light earth/mud
- Multiple coats of Acrylic Varnish, Gloss Gel ripples

This mini-scene captures a dunking and is only 1/16” deep

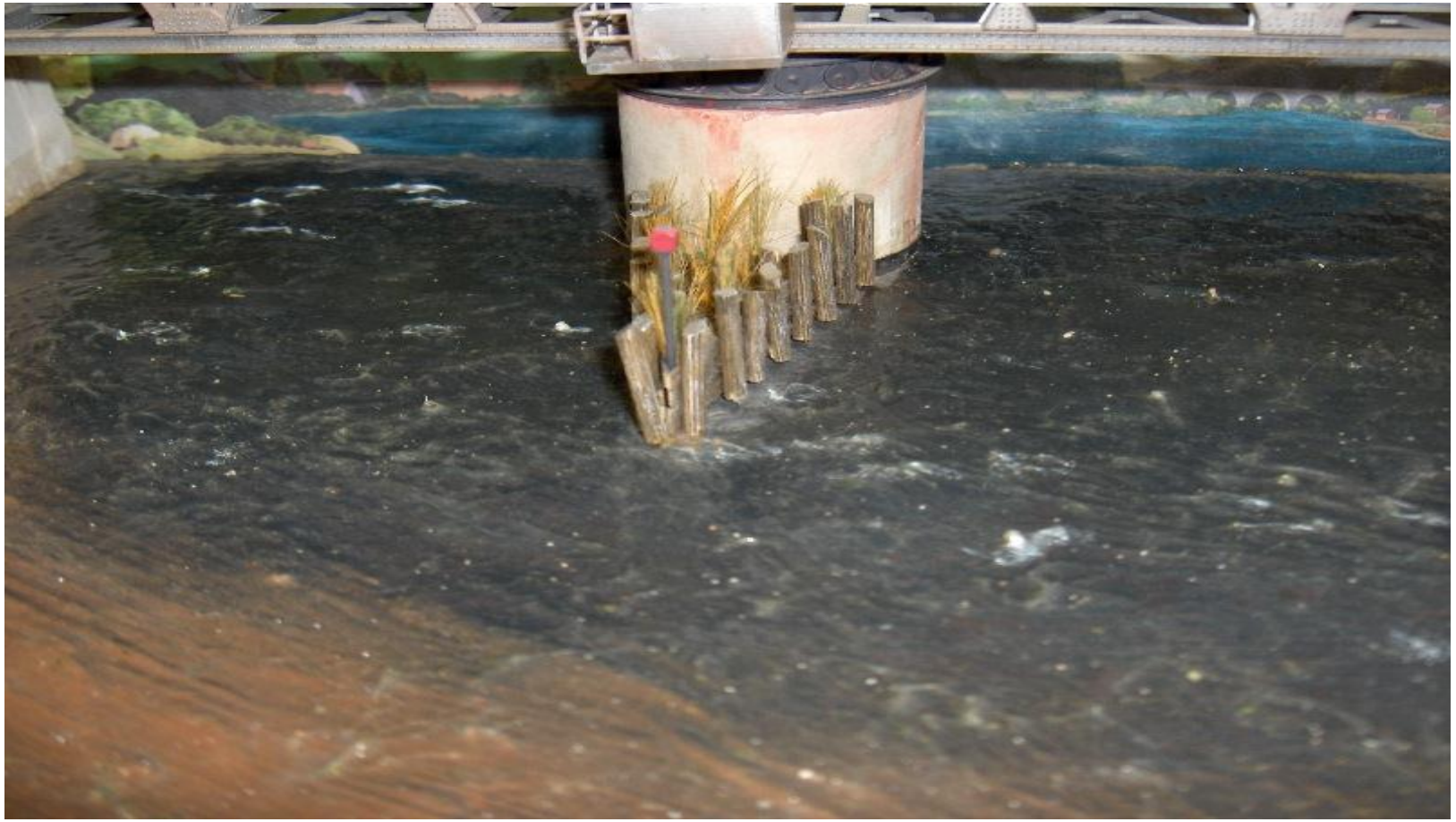
Special effects

Wakes



Note the blend of shallow to deep water. The wake is white silicone sealer

Waves



Blend the 3D water into the backdrop, or hide it around a bend

Boats

This wake is Acrylic Gloss Gel dry brushed with white craft paint

Tips and Techniques

- Smooth plaster surface-
  - Paint to represent depth then use gloss varnish
- Contoured bottom with a raised surface
  - Model the bottom detail first then add a clear surface about 1 inch above
- Contoured surface with a poured depth
  - Complete the bottom then pour several layers of medium
- Tidal Flats, shallow streams
  - Shallow depressions fully sceniced, add a thin pour of medium
- Mud puddles, drips
  - Color the depression darker than the surrounding area, tint medium with a color

Trash and Junk

Even a small amount of “water” can give a really nice effect to a model

Big Deep Lakes

- Prepare the area edges
- Use plaster to create a smooth surface
- Paint a dark blue/black for depth
- Pour acrylic resin (Enviro-tex)

Harbors and Lakes

- Use Foam core board to create a smooth surface
- Use Latex texture paint and a sea sponge for waves
- Paint to achieve the color of depth
- Paint waves blue and light blue/green top with white
- Brush on several coats of Acrylic Varnish

Problems to be aware of

- Leaks. Many products will seep through the smallest hole
- Shoreline creep. Some products will “ride” up the bank, requiring repainting/scenicing
- Air bubbles. Envirotex must be “de-bubbled” with CO2 (use a straw) or heat (torch)
- Trash, bugs and finger prints. Stuff happens! Try to prevent it.

Products to try

• Gloss paint	Cheap
• Acrylic light diffuser	not expensive
• Actual Water	messy
• Acrylic Artist products	easy, min cost
• Casting resins	smelly, toxic
• Enviro-tex	Easy, med cost
• WS products	Easy, med cost
• Glass/Plexiglas	A challenge


Liquitex
ACRYLIC
GLOSS
MEDIUM
No. 5032
(948 ml.)
Liquitex
GLOSS MEDIUM & VARNISH
MEDIUM & VERNIS BRILLANT
MEDIUM BARNIZ BRILLANTE
FLUID MEDIUM
MEDIUM FLUIDE
MEDIUM FLUIDO
ACRYLIC / ACRYLIQUE POUR ARTISTE /
ACRILICO PARA ARTISTA
118 mL 4 U.S. fl. oz.
WATER EFFECTS
GOLDEN
GEL MEDIUMS
High Solid Gel (Gloss)
2008
EnviroTex Lite®
pour-on
HIGH GLOSS FINISH
Preserves & Beauti
MINWAX
WATER BASED
Polycrylic
PROTECTIVE FINISH
Crystal Clear Finish
Ultra Fast-Drying
REALISTIC
WATER
NEW
Liquitex
LIGHT MODELING PASTE
MORTIER DE STRUCTURE SOUPLE
PASTA DE MODELAR LIGERA
LEICHTE MODELLIERMASSE
GEL DI STRUTTURA CHIARA
237 mL 8 U.S. fl. oz.
Liquitex
GLOSS HEAVY GEL
medium gel épais brillant
GEL MEDIUM
ARTIST ACRYLIC
5120 | 237 mL
TUB & TILE
Adhesive Caulk
SILICONE

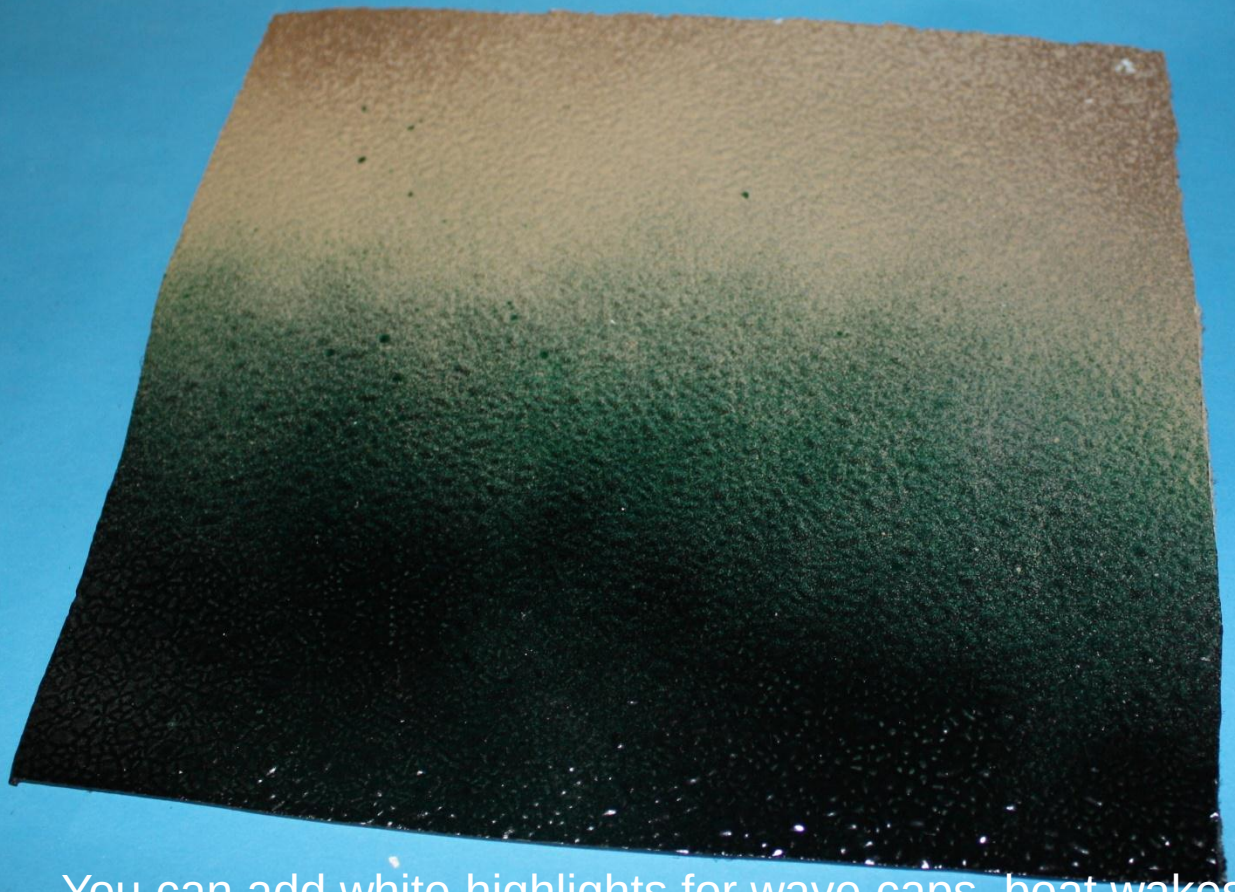
Now for something completely different!

DRY WATER using FRP board

FRP board is a textured product used for back splashes

FRP board is water resistant, has a “bumpy” texture and is about 1/16” thick

The surface is sprayed with Light Earth, Sand, Deep Green and Dark Sea Blue. After the paint dries, over spay with gloss sealer or paint with gloss acrylic varnish.



You can add white highlights for wave caps, boat wakes etc.

Added Scenery reflects in the varnish and gives a good representation of water. Blend the shoreline better than I did.

Well there you have it. See there is nothing to it.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS

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