Installing the Vineyard Trellis


ISU Horticulture Research Station
planting before the trellis system was installed
(July 2002)

Post locations were marked, and line post were set out

Driving a line post with a hydraulic driver.

The narrow end of 3.5” x 8’ posts were driven 2 ft into the ground.

Because the vines were already growing and trained on bamboo stakes, we worked across the rows to avoid damaging the vines

Because the end posts were a larger diameter and were being set in un-tilled soil, pilot holes were dug.

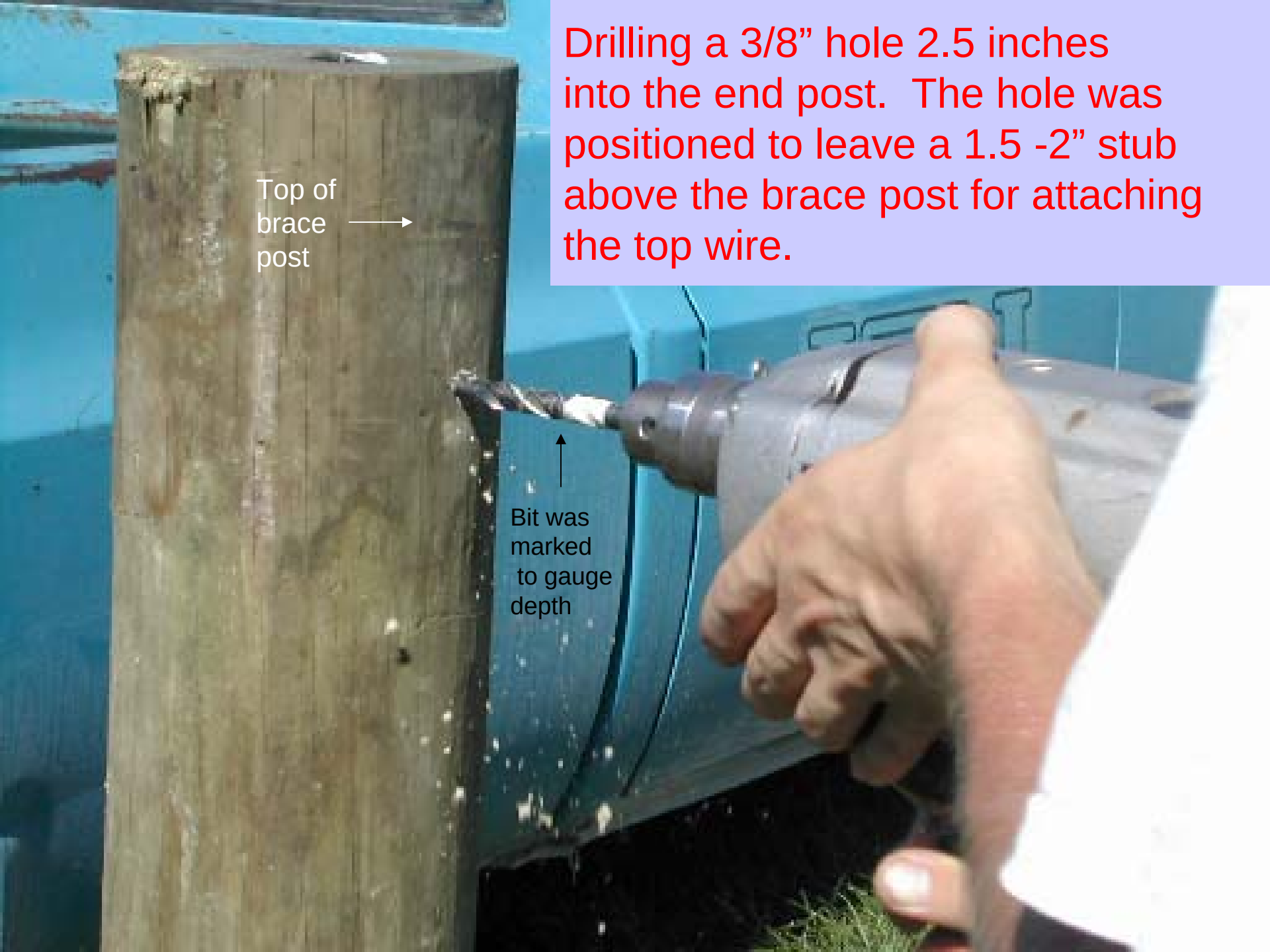

5” x 8’ end posts were driven 8 ft from the last line post with the narrow end down

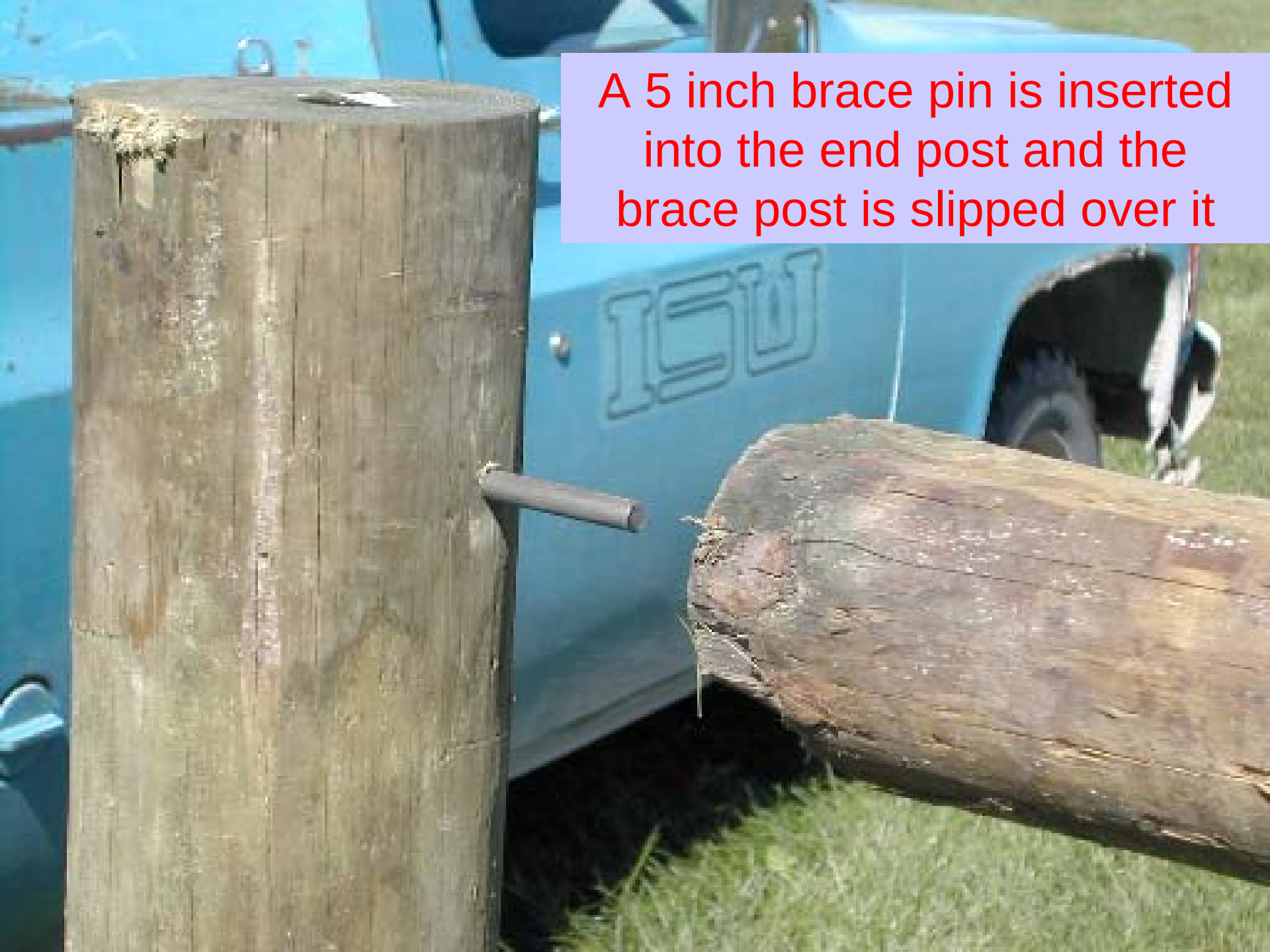
End posts were driven to a depth of 3.5 ft leaving 4.5 ft exposed (physical constraints of the driver).

Depth was checked with a pre-marked pole.

Constructing the “H”- brace

Drilling a 3/8” hole 2.5 inches into one end of a brace post


Drilling a 3/8” hole 2.5 inches into the end post. The hole was positioned to leave a 1.5 -2” stub above the brace post for attaching the top wire.
Top of brace post
Bit was marked to gauge depth


A 5 inch brace pin is inserted into the end post and the brace post is slipped over it


The brace post is leveled & blocked,
and a 3/8” hole is drilled through the
line post into the brace post.


A 9 inch brace pin is inserted to secure the brace post. About 1.5 inches is left sticking out to catch the brace wire.


9 soft wire is strung between the posts
and the ends are spliced to form a loop

Staples are used to secure the brace wire near the bottom of the end post


The brace wire is twisted to tighten the brace assembly

A completed H-brace anchor system

12.5 ga high-tensile wire is strung down the row and attached to the end post with crimping sleeves


A crimping tool is used to crimp the sleeves

The wire is being attached to the line posts with 2” staples


Two staples were used for added strength when attaching the top wire


Strainers are attached to the opposite end post
with staples used to hold their position

The wire is tightened by taking it up on a strainer


The wire tension is checked with a gauge consisting of a home-made jig and fishing scale

The completed trellis system


Vines are being trained up to the top wire
with the aid of bamboo stakes and string

The construction crew