

What's Up Dock?

Roland arrived at the New Hampshire lake the morning before his sister's wedding and was greeted by an unwelcome surprise. It turned out that he had misread the instructions – it was he, not his brother Ronald, who was responsible for the floral decorations. Fortunately, the instructions were simple. All he needed to do was to festoon the boat dock on which the ceremony was to take place with a row of ferns. But how was he supposed to find ferns in northern New Hampshire in late autumn? Roland would need to be creative. He pulled out some grass from a nearby field and taped it to the dock, hoping it would look like fronds of ferns. It looked like grass taped to a dock, not fronds. He pulled out his sketch pad and quickly drew several fronds and pasted them to the dock, but even using a green pencil the sketches looked like sketches, not fronds. Discouraged, Roland walked back to the reception area. People were already scurrying about, preparing the buffet for later in the day. Apparently his sister had decided on an Indian theme, because a table offered various kinds of naan. There was bright orange naan made from pumpkins, red naan made from raspberries, and green naan made from... Wait a second! Roland grabbed several, pulled out his pen knife, and carved many lifelike green fronds. He ran back to the dock, pasted them on, and compared them to the others he had tried. It was very clear: a naan is a dock's best frond.

