

# Create#23 // Green grow the rushes o by Jon Tyler

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For me there are few pleasures as endlessly satisfying as making a rush boat. All that is required is a rush stem, a few minutes of time and a little patience - that's it. Following just a few simple steps a single stem-like leaf can be fashioned into an aesthetically pleasing object that requires no preparation and not even any tools.

## You will need

- A clump of rushes found in marshes and in meadows or by ponds, streams or rivers.
- Optional - a cocktail stick or one thin straight stick (match thickness).



Rush clump and harvesting

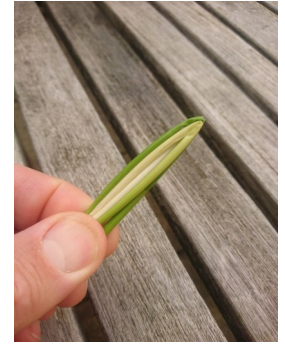
## Making a rush boat

1. In the clump of rushes look for a nice green round rush leaf-stem (preferably without flowers on) that is at least 40cm long, not damaged and with the pointed end intact.
2. Hold the upper stem in one hand then reach the other hand down the stem towards the base as far as you can go. Carefully pull out the stem without breaking it, using the hand holding the lower stem. If needed gently peel the brown leaf sheaf from the thicker base of the stem to expose the white stem butt.
3. Starting at the butt end; fold 2 - 4cm of the stem back onto itself. Roll the stem around the fold and repeat the fold with the next section of stem.

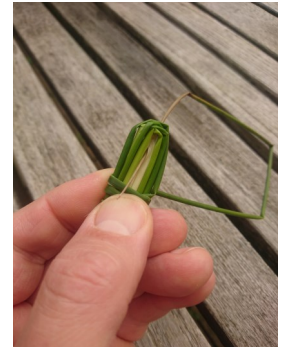


Leaf sheaf of rush

4. Continue folding and rolling the stem round itself as you go to make a flat 'deck'. Hold the already rolled stem as you fold it round each new section.
5. When you have about a quarter of the rush left, wrap the stem tightly 3 to 5 times across the deck you have already folded to secure the rolled stem.
6. On the last wrap-around pass the pointed tip end of the stem through the middle of the 'deck' and gently pull tight to secure your craft. If needed use the thin stick to make a guide hole for the rush tip.
7. With the remaining stem fashion a sail (or 2 sails) and tuck the tip through the cross wrapping to secure the sail.
8. Find a puddle or any other body of water to launch your vessel on and watch it sail.



First fold and fold and roll



Cross wrapping and securing the boat

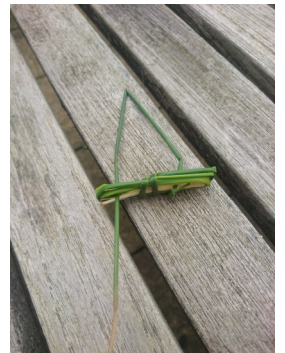
**Why not also try making:**

Rush broaches

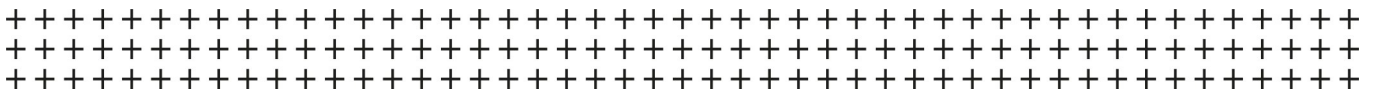
Rush dragonflies or butterflies



Finished boats on the water



Making the sail



**CONTACT**

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