



## Contemporary Quill Pens Made by William Knuth



William Knuth has been interested in wood working since the age of eleven when he took a shop class in school. He tries to be involved with it as frequently as possible. About six years ago, he began making pens as gifts. At first his pens were made of wood but soon he moved on to acrylics and corian (a material used to make counter tops). From there he branched out to more eclectic materials such as deer antlers and even corn cobs!

Recently Mr. Knuth has begun using a luxury resin to create an acrylic type of material. This process enables him to produce pens in many different color combinations. In addition, unusual materials such as snake skin and bird feathers can be cast in clear resin to create beautiful and unique pens.

The idea of decorating pens with hedgehog quills came from one of Mr. Knuth's co-workers. When she learned of his unusual hobby, she asked if a pen could be decorated with a few hedgehog quills. She and her friend had raised hedgehog together but eventually lost them to cancer. They kept some of the quills. The woman thought her friend, who also collects pens, would appreciate a pen enhanced with hedgehog quills. Knuth agreed to try out the idea and soon came up with a workable design.

Once the first quill pen was made, Knuth's quill supply was depleted. His search for a hedgehog breeder who might be willing to collect quills for him was unsuccessful at first. Then Knuth posted a request for quills at Hedgehog Central. After several people suggested that he might actually be looking for porcupine quills, he posted a photograph of his original quill pen. In a matter of hours he received several requests from people who wished to purchase pens as well as several offers from hedgehog owners willing to send or sell hedgehog quills. The first few hedgehog-quill pens he made had a band of quills around the pen. But soon Knuth accumulated enough quills to produce a pen entirely covered with hedgehog quills!

Are you interested in purchasing a hedgehog quill pen? The information you need is in the article below.

### Are You Interested in Purchasing a Quill Pen ?

By William Knuth

I can put a band of quills into any material that I can make a pen out of. Along with the resins I pour myself, I have, or can obtain, any type of wood you could possibly want. The time it takes to make a pen with quills really depends on what material you want and how many bands of quills you want in each pen.

Each quill has to be hand placed and glued individually. A single band normally requires about 50 quills, 100 for two bands and as many as 350—400 quills for a full quill pen.

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<http://arc.usf.edu/olpar/>

Photographs courtesy of William Knuth. Used with permission.



*Photo by William Knuth. Used with Permission*

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If I use wood, the amount of time needed to make a pen with one quill band would be about 4 or 5 hours; double that for two quill bands. It takes another 48 hours for the resin that is used to seal the quills to dry.

If a pen is made of resin, rather than wood, more time is required for mixing the resin material and allowing it to dry. This usually takes 48 hours. Then the pen must be shaped and sized and the quills must be glued in place. Then a second layer of resin is poured to seal the quills—and this requires an additional 48 hours of drying time.

A pen that is completely covered with quills can take about 10 hours to assemble with an additional 48 hours or so to allow the sealing resin to dry.

A single banded pen costs \$35. If you supply the quills, the cost is \$30

A double-banded pen costs \$40 or \$35 if you supply the quills

An all-quill pen costs \$90 or \$75 if you provide the quills.

The pens can be finished with a variety of trims including: Real gold plating, titanium gold, chrome, gun metal, black titanium, gold with gun metal trim, copper, gold with chrome trim, satin chrome and platinum. There is usually no additional cost for the finish. However, platinum is \$5.00 more because it is a more expensive finish.

If you would like to purchase a quill pen, you reach me via email at: [wcknuth@gmail.com](mailto:wcknuth@gmail.com)



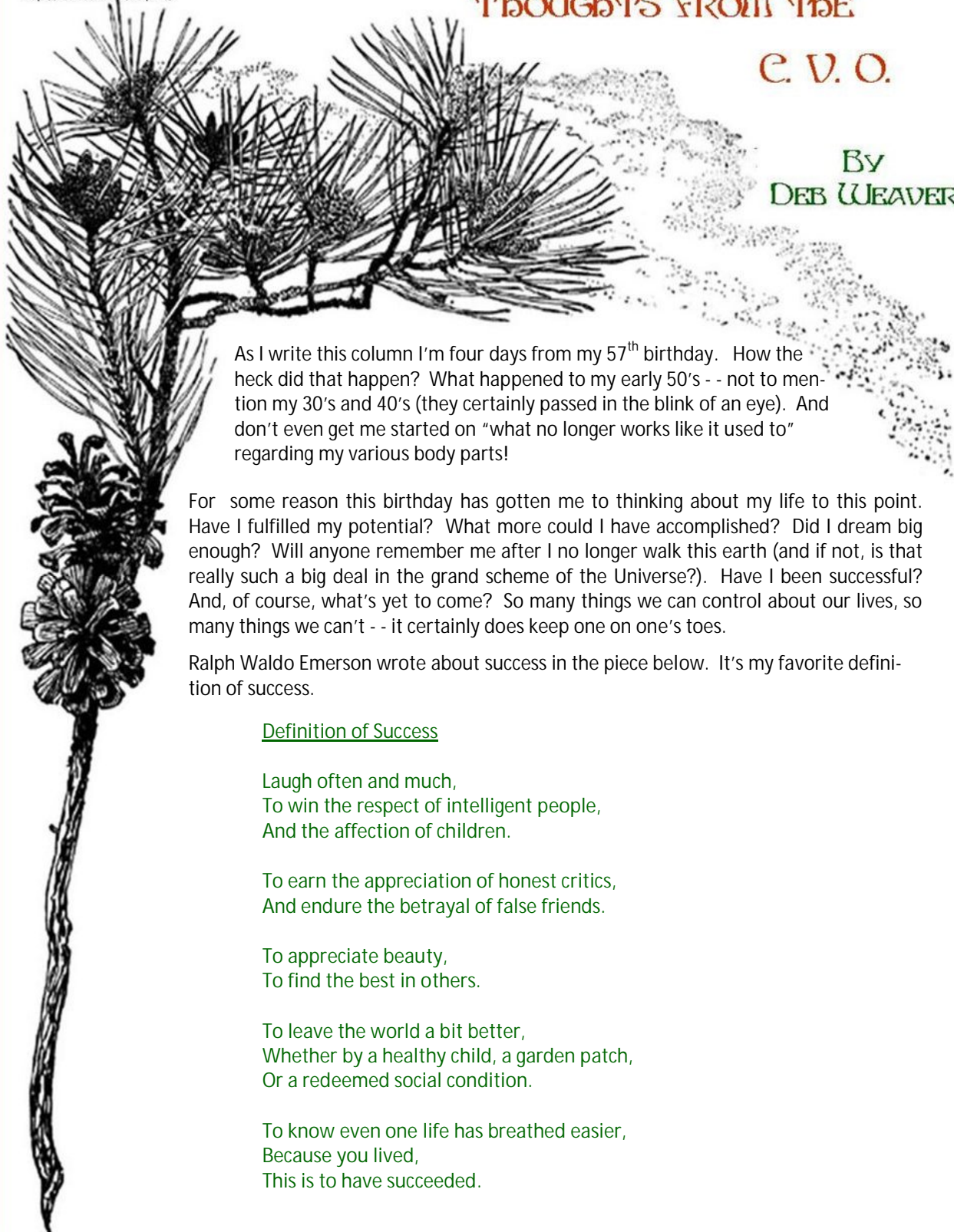
*Photo by Margaret Myhre. Used with permission.*

<http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/>

## THOUGHTS FROM THE

E. V. O.

BY  
DEB WEAVER



As I write this column I'm four days from my 57<sup>th</sup> birthday. How the heck did that happen? What happened to my early 50's - - not to mention my 30's and 40's (they certainly passed in the blink of an eye). And don't even get me started on "what no longer works like it used to" regarding my various body parts!

For some reason this birthday has gotten me to thinking about my life to this point. Have I fulfilled my potential? What more could I have accomplished? Did I dream big enough? Will anyone remember me after I no longer walk this earth (and if not, is that really such a big deal in the grand scheme of the Universe?). Have I been successful? And, of course, what's yet to come? So many things we can control about our lives, so many things we can't - - it certainly does keep one on one's toes.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote about success in the piece below. It's my favorite definition of success.

### Definition of Success

Laugh often and much,  
To win the respect of intelligent people,  
And the affection of children.

To earn the appreciation of honest critics,  
And endure the betrayal of false friends.

To appreciate beauty,  
To find the best in others.

To leave the world a bit better,  
Whether by a healthy child, a garden patch,  
Or a redeemed social condition.

To know even one life has breathed easier,  
Because you lived,  
This is to have succeeded.

**“Fat Little Hedgehog”**



*by Carole Pivarnik. Used with permission.*

This wonderful portrait in pen and ink and watercolor comes to us from Carole Pivarnik. The original piece measures 6 X 9 inches. Carole works out of her studio in Castleton, Virginia where she sells original works and prints and accepts pet portrait and illustration commissions. She had this to say about the picture:

I have no idea where the idea for this painting came from, but I was playing with my hedgehog one day and feeding him a cricket when I started to wonder how to paint those quills in watercolor! From there...things just happened :)

Sadly, my little hedgie died this summer (he was four years and a bit). He was a fine little guy who I really enjoyed. He got an anti-social start in life in a pet shop, but I "rescued" him when he was about six months old and he became quite sociable and curious after getting over his concerns about being handled.



**HEDGEHOG BIRTHDAYS**

**NOVEMBER**

Nov. 30 Misty Rose Ernst

**DECEMBER**

Dec. 10 Hedwig Fischer  
 Dec. 14 Jake Denny  
 Dec. 16 Miki Denny  
 Dec. 30 Lexie Denny

**NOT ON THE BIRTHDAY LIST?  
 SEND YOUR HEDGIE'S NAME AND BIRTHDAY  
 TO: [NEWSLETTER@HEDGEHOGWELFARE.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@HEDGEHOGWELFARE.ORG)**

## How to Make a Blanket / Cage Liner for Your Hedgehog

By Melissa Kowalski

This past summer I took care of three hedgehogs while their family was on vacation. I admired their double-sided fleece cage liners. I had been using fleece on top of flannel and newspaper and tucking it between the side of the cage and the wire top. I loved the idea of having a single blanket to put in and change out as needed. However, I had also come to love the absorbency of the flannel. It meant that I could clean the poops out, but have extended time between changing out the layers.

I knew I wanted to sew my own blanket / cage liner for Stan, so I started looking for fleece at thrift stores and yard sales. I already had some of my own fleece but wanted more to make multiple blankets. That way, I can change one and have a second blanket to use while washing the soiled one.

Obviously, flannel is absorbent but why fleece? Hedgehogs have long toenails that can catch on other fabrics, causing injury. Unlike terrycloth, fleece doesn't have loops of thread in which hedgehog toenails can get caught.

After buying a fleece throw at a yard sale for \$2, I made my first blanket with two pieces of fleece and seven layers of flannel inside that was left over from an old quilt making project - I used up all the pink stuff that my boys would never want.

This photograph shows the project start, with the layers of fleece and flannel showing.



This is the finished project. Remember, first drafts are always messier because of the learning curve!



This one served Stan well until I made my second one last night. I'd love to make these and sell them but I'm also happy to share the process for the crafty ones among you. Here are the steps to making your very own, ultra absorbent snuggly blanket for your hedgehog or other small mammal.

Step 1: Measure the floor space of your cage and cut two pieces of fleece and six layers of flannel. The fleece should be cut slightly larger than the cage - an inch or two on each side. The flannel should be closer to the size of the cage. You can see the layers here. The fleece are from large scraps I had. Cheap sources of fleece are thrift stores, yard sales, [Freecycle](#), remnants from fabric shops, and old blankets you may have around.

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