

# Cover artist loves the WOW of summer!

By Marilyn Innerfeld

The *Mountain Connection* is pleased to introduce our mountain community to Denise Bellon West, winner of our first annual Cover Art Contest.

This issue's cover art is a watercolor by Denise, who enjoys working in both watercolors and oils.

Her paintings can best be described as fresh, lively and colorful. Maybe even fun and happy. Color is her thing.

"I need full-blast color to get the visual satisfaction I crave," Denise said. "I struggled with watercolors for 12 years trying to get the intensity I needed. Frustrated, I switched to oils at that time, and they were my salvation. For the first time, I had the immediate visual gratification I'd been yearning for."

After two years of enjoying the luscious, wonderful, gooey oils, Denise

decided to give watercolors one more chance. "The Wow of Summer" was the result. The exuberance she felt is evident in her painting.

Denise tends to paint fairly large because she said, "I can't see small! Even when I manage to do a smaller painting, I frame it big!" She uses conservation materials and UV glass in her framing. "I figure if it's worth framing, it deserves the best!" added Denise. "I know that when I buy artwork, I justify the expense by realizing how much enjoyment I get out of seeing it every day. That's priceless."

Denise is currently the vice president of the Evergreen Artists Association, vice president of the Colorado Watercolor Society and is on the board of the Evergreen Arts Council. She is represented by Earth and Sky Fine Arts Gallery in Estes Park. Other than

her commissioned work, Denise sells originals and limited-edition prints of her work.

She can be reached at 303-697-0657 or via e-mail at [denise.studio@gtcinternet.com](mailto:denise.studio@gtcinternet.com).

Denise lives in Indian Hills with her husband and their two teen-aged children.



Denise Bellon, top picture, won the honor of having her artwork on the cover of the *Mountain Connection* for this Art, Art and More Art edition. The lower picture is another of her colorful pieces titled "Badlands Sage."