

## Marke Talley

I returned to water color and pastel about seven years ago. Before that, most of my formal training involved biology and music. Watercolor is fun and fast, but pastel has been my magnet for over fifty years. One rainy afternoon or evening my favorite cousin, Joan Partridge (now Joan Bernard), invited me at age eight or nine to the attic where her art supplies were stored. She was already a fine artist as a teenager. She said she'd draw me a pastel. I asked for a tree by a lake with some swans swimming. She drew an apple tree in full bloom, the pink and white petals falling into the water among the swans. The pigments shone on the black paper with the inner light of scales of a butterfly's wing.

In 2001, I took a pastel class from Janice Muir, who recommended a workshop by Doug Dawson, the best pastel artist in the United States. I took the week-long workshop twice. Since then, I have shown several pastels and a few watercolor paintings at The Art Center at Fuller Lodge and have sold a few to friends.

