



Artists in Residence in Everglades EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Mary Beth Ellis

Mary Beth Ellis is a freelance writer, teacher, and public speaker who lives in Mobile, AL. A native of Cincinnati, OH, she obtained her undergraduate degree at Saint Mary's College, and was the first SMC student invited to read at the University of Notre Dame's Sophomore Literary Festival. Her vast and frightening array of day jobs after completing her MFA in nonfiction writing at Bennington College have included bodyguarding Jimmy Buffett, working in education at the Kennedy Space Center, and sports reporting for the Thoroughbred racing industry.

Mary Beth is a former contributor to Dish Pronto, JamsBio, and FreelanceSwitch.com. Her work has appeared in Random House's *Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers*, *Calliope*, and *Grotto Stories*. Other credits include *Smithsonian Air & Space*, the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, *Weber: The Contemporary West*, *Notre Dame Magazine*, and many more.

Since 1995, Mary Beth has run (in some form, at least) *BlondeChampagne.com*, a kinda-daily updated humor site. She was named the Erma Bombeck Humor Writers' Workshop Writer of the Month in November 2006 and invited as a writer-in-residence at Casa Libre in the spring of 2007. In May of 2010, she was a Visiting Artist with the Colorado Art Ranch, and presented at the Spring 2010 Artposium.

Mary Beth's adventures will continue in 2011 with a residency with Institute for Sustainable Living, Art and Natural Design, a fellowship with the American Antiquarian Society, and a month as an Artist in Residence at Everglades National Park. She's fairly sure this will all be awesome, and invites you along at *BlondeChampagne*.