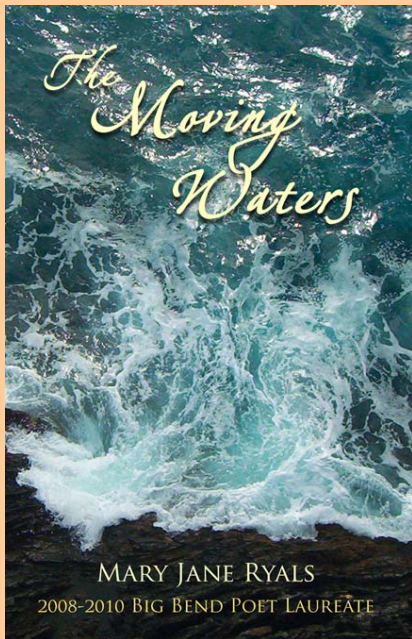


Meet the Author!

MARY JANE RYALS

2008 – 2010 Florida Big Bend Poet Laureate



Mary Jane Ryals is an award-winning author of nonfiction, poetry, and short stories; editor at *The Apalachee Review* literary magazine; and teacher of writing at Florida State University's College of Business and the university's Valencia, Spain program. She has traveled in Western Europe, Mexico, Northern Africa, Singapore, and Vietnam.



“Place creates character and culture. The more I travel, the more the gifts of humor and joy shower down. When I write poetry, water music comes to mind. I experiment a lot with style. I think it's the gypsy spirit I was born with, to be curious about trying new things. Mostly, my poetry wants to be a festival of life.”

—Mary Jane Ryals, 2008-2010 Florida Big Bend Poet Laureate

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