

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress presents
the Benjamin Botkin Folklife Lecture Series

FREE NOONTIME EVENT

FROM BRIDGE TO BOARDWALK: AN AUDIO JOURNEY ACROSS MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE

Illustrated lecture based on the eponymous CD and book presented by
DOUGLAS MANGER—Folklorist at the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation,
TATIANA IRVINE—independent radio producer, and
ELAINE EFF—Folklorist at the Maryland Historical Trust



BOOK/CD SIGNING TO FOLLOW

Thursday
October 21, 2004
12 NOON - 1:00 PM
Mumford Room

6th Floor James Madison Building
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

Closest Metro Stop:
Capitol South (orange
and blue lines),
First & C Streets, S.E.,
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FROM BRIDGE TO BOARDWALK: AN AUDIO JOURNEY ACROSS MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE



There is no other place on Earth quite like the broad, tapered peninsula that separates the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Despite its rather simple name, the Eastern Shore is immensely rich in tradition, history, and colorful personalities. Isolated by geography and ignored as a cultural backwater, the region developed its own character, its own speech patterns, and its own proprietary sense of being and belonging. Shore people often are referred to as "born heres," "come heres," or "stay heres."

Today's Eastern Shore is no longer insular. The pace of life has quickened and many of its quirky ways are fading. But more than a few traces of this unique culture remain, as revealed in *From Bridge to Boardwalk*.

Assembled by folklorists and community scholars who know the Eastern Shore intimately, the audio package includes two hours of interviews with some of the Shore's most interesting and revealing people, plus music tracks never before available on disc. A separate booklet features a dozen essays on regional topics, photographs, and tips for learning more about Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The process to create *From Bridge to Boardwalk* began in January of 2004, when audio producer/folklorist Tatiana Irvine moved from Chapel Hill, North Carolina to Denton, Maryland and began to document the sounds of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Ms. Irvine spent six months in the field recording interviews on such topics as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, skipjack restoration, the Crumpton auction, jousting, seafood workers, muskrat skinning, the African-American Gospel Tradition, decoy carvers, and Ocean City lifeguards. At the mastering lab, Ms. Irvine mixed the spoken words with natural sounds and music. Mark Orton, a composer and musician, was retained to compose the music for each track. The project was sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland State Arts Council.



In addition to Irvine's fieldwork, the CD incorporates narratives written by area folklorists and other regional specialists. These essays explore Eastern Shore traditions across a broad spectrum of topics ranging from community performance traditions, agriculture, foodways, recreation/tourism, hunting, boats, watermen and community celebrations. A reference section at the back of the booklet includes events listings, books to read, arts councils, camping areas, heritage areas, and historical societies, as well as tourism offices.

To add visual interest and historical context, narratives are paired with black and white photographs. Historical imagery is drawn from archival collections at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, The Historical Society of Talbot County, Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, and the Ward Museum, as well as from private collections including the A. Aubrey Bodine collection housed in Denton.

