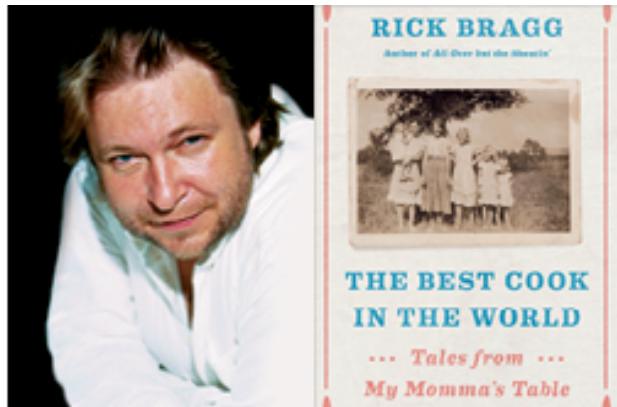




# Icons of Southern Food and Culture



## Rick Bragg Sits Down with Jerry Mitchell

**Rick Bragg**, one of the South's most beloved storytellers, brings his wit and wisdom to the Mississippi Book Festival this year in a sit-down conversation with *Clarion-Ledger* journalist Jerry Mitchell that promises to be filled with heart and humor – not to mention ham biscuits and hush puppies, as well.

The one who Bragg credits most for his success today (and who fed him well along the way) is his mother Margaret Bragg. It is in her honor his most recent volume, a “food memoir” of sorts, was written: *The Best Cook in the World: Tales from My Momma’s Table*. As with his other popular books (*All Over But the Shoutin’* and *“Ava’s Man,”* to name a few), *“The Best Cook”* is filled with family stories that no one could make up – plus 74 “soul food” recipes. He is also a contributor to *Garden & Gun Magazine*. As the festival’s only panelist from Possum Trot, Ala., Bragg acknowledges that his life experiences have provided him a lifetime of stories to tell.

*“I dug ditches – I mean real ditches.  
‘Worked with a pick and shovel.  
‘Ran a chainsaw. ‘Cut pulpwood.*

*My people think because I don't get dirty, I don't have a real job.  
But I know there's always a story.  
It depends on the way you look at the world."*  
— RICK BRAGG —



## Julia Reed Takes a Reading on Garden & Gun Editor David DiBenedetto

**Don't miss this energetic twosome and friends as they discuss the trends and realities of the book and magazine publishing business in today's South!**

**Julia Reed** grew up in the Mississippi Delta, drawing deeply from its joys and eccentricities as she built a career that showcases many talents. Today she's good at an excess of things, among them writing, cooking, entertaining, decorating – and, let's not forget – talking, all with heartfelt Southern humor.

The author of eight books, her newest will be released in July. *South Toward Home: Adventures and Misadventures in My Native Land* (with a foreword by Jon Meacham) acclaims the region's best and sometimes sketchiest of local culture (think dive bars), as well as festivals and Mardi Gras parades. She also takes a crack at the South's politics, drinking habits, mosquitos, music and more.

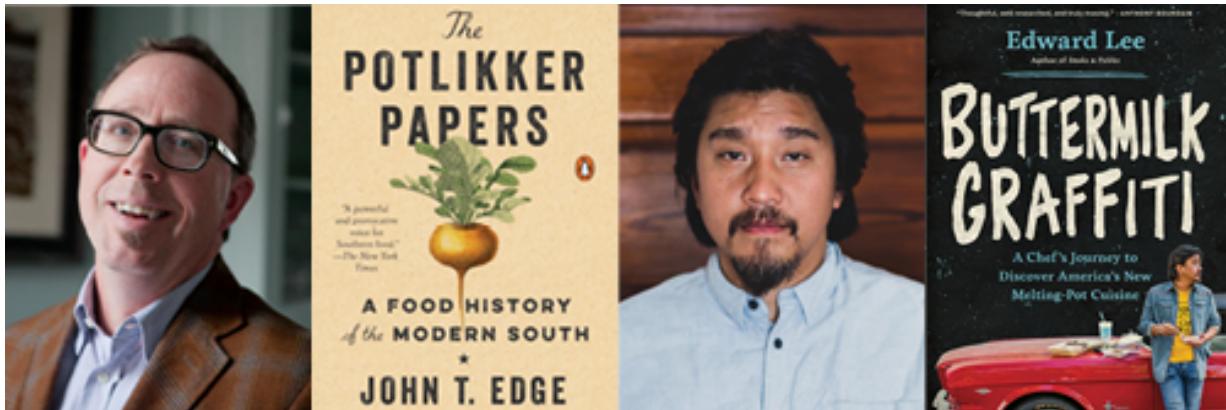
A contributing writer for *Garden & Gun Magazine*, *Elle Décor*, *The Wall Street Journal's* magazine, and others, Reed also serves on the National Advisory Board of the Eudora Welty Foundation. She makes her home in New Orleans.

*"My fellow Southerners have brought me the greatest joy – on the page, over the airwaves, around the dinner table, at the bar or, hell, in the checkout line."*

—JULIA REED—  
in *South Toward Home*

**David DiBenedetto**, senior vice president and editor-in-chief of *Garden & Gun Magazine*, is also the author of the book *On the Run: An Angler's Journey Down the*

*Striper Coast* (HarperCollins), which received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*. Under his watch, the magazine has published three books: *The Southerner's Handbook*, *Good Dog*, and *The Southerner's Cookbook*, all *New York Times* bestsellers.



## The Culture of Food: A Discussion Between John T. Edge and Edward Lee

While the story of Southern food may be complicated, it's also evolving, as this lively dialogue between John T. Edge and chef Edward Lee will undoubtedly prove.

**John T. Edge** is the director of the Southern Foodways Alliance (an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi), and a food historian who has spent more than 20 years scrutinizing the food culture of the South. Its complicated story, often played out against a backdrop of racism, poverty, and politics, is not over yet, and Edge points out that the influence of Mexican, Asian and other cultures is writing new chapters in our culinary narrative.

The author or editor of more than a dozen books, Edge's most recent, *The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South*, (Penguin Press), was named a best book of 2017 by NPR, *Publisher's Weekly*, and others. He is also a contributing editor at *Garden & Gun Magazine* and a columnist for the *Oxford American*. He lives in Oxford.

*"My job, as a writer, is to explain that all meals come with servings of history, too."*

—JOHN T. EDGE—

Atlanta Magazine interview with Julia Bainbridge, May 2017

**Edward Lee** lives a double life as chef and author – and his newest book, *Buttermilk Graffiti: A Chef's Journey to Discover America's New Melting-Pot Cuisine* has been named one of *Publishers Weekly's* Top 10 Food Books for Spring 2018. This timely work chronicles a two-year road trip that uncovers 16 unique stories of American culinary "mash-ups" that are becoming more and more common among the nation's local cuisines.

Born to Korean parents in Brooklyn, it was his travels to France and throughout the U.S. after college that would spark his love for Southern cooking. Today he owns five restaurants in Louisville, Kentucky and the Washington, D.C. area, where he has deliciously blended Asian and Southern favorites into unique and memorable menus.

Lee is a four-time nominee for the James Beard Award, and has appeared regularly on numerous TV shows, including *The Mind of a Chef* on PBS (where he was nominated for an Emmy award) and *Top Chef*. He is more than excited about the future of the South's culinary story!

*"The intersection of food and culture happens in strange and beautiful ways."*  
— EDWARD LEE —

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