

# Meet the Speakers

*Resilient Shores: Green Solutions Workshop*

*April 12, 2018*

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## Main Speaker

**SETH WILKINSON** is considered one of the regional experts and a frequent instructor in the field of bioengineering and ecological restoration, Seth Wilkinson has been a leader in hundreds of ecological restoration projects for land trusts, conservation commissions and private individuals over nearly two decades. Whether through the use of innovative equipment to manage invasive species or the inspired blending of bioengineering products with native plants, Seth and his team at Wilkinson Ecological Design continue to improve the practice and integrity of ecological restoration.

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## Additional Speakers

**STEVE KIRK** is the Coastal Program Manager for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. His responsibilities include development, implementation, and monitoring of statewide and regional coastal conservation strategies. His focus is on coastal resilience and nearshore habitat restoration, particularly shellfish. Steve grew up sailing in Buzzards Bay, is a former oyster farmer in Falmouth, and holds a Masters in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island and a B.A. in Geography from the University of Vermont.

**JULIA KNISEL** is the Coastal Shoreline and Floodplain Manager for the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, leading development and implementation of policies and strategies to promote sound adaptation and reduce vulnerability along the coast. Julia coordinates with state and federal agencies, local cities and towns, regional planning agencies, and NGOs to build partnerships and collaborative approaches to improve management of coastal erosion and flooding. She oversees the Massachusetts StormSmart Coasts program to help communities prepare for and protect themselves from coastal storms and flooding-both now and under higher sea levels. Julia also co-chairs the Northeast Regional Ocean Council's Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee, which coordinates activities related to coastal hazards resilience and climate adaptation in New England. Julia previously worked for the U.S. Geological Survey Coastal and Marine Geology Program and was a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow. Julia has a B.S. in Biology and Marine

**ERIC ROBERTS** is trained as an environmental scientist and policy analyst and with expertise in stakeholder engagement and consensus building processes, whose personal and professional goal is to serve as a catalyst for positive social and environmental change. A Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and former environmental scientist, mediator of public and environmental disputes, and philanthropic advisor, Eric now works with state and federal agencies and local communities to address climate change vulnerabilities as a Coastal Resilience Specialist at The Nature Conservancy.