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**Thursday April 27, 2017
1:00- 2:00 PM EST**

Digging into Healthy Soils and Carbon Farming

Resource Experts

Dr. Sara Via, University of Maryland Extension

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Jay Ford, Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper & Shine and Rise Farm

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Moderator

Meredith Lathbury Girard, Town Creek Foundation

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Dr. Sara Via is Professor of Biology at the University of Maryland, College Park. She has recently moved from research on the genetics of crop pests to focus on climate change outreach through the University of Maryland Extension. Sara works with Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists and also with farmers across Maryland to convey the impacts of climate

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change and the solutions that are already available. Her interest in healthy soil stems both from its fascinating biology and its pivotal role in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration.

Jay Ford is the Executive Director of Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper, dedicated to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic waters off of the Virginia's Eastern Shore. He is also the owner of Shine and Rise Farm, a sustainable, permaculture farm growing healthy people and a healthy planet. Jay also served on the Virginia Climate Change Commission, as well as the Land Conservation Foundation Board, and the Coastal Land Advisory Council.



Moderator, **Meredith Lathbury Girard**, joined the Town Creek Foundation as the Senior Program Officer in October 2011. Meredith leads the foundation's Chesapeake Bay restoration and food system reform work. Town Creek Foundation currently is co-chair of the Washington Regional Food Funders and Meredith is a past co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network (2014-2016). She has a background in Chesapeake Bay environmental issues in both the government and non-profit sectors. Meredith joined Town Creek Foundation after serving as Director of Land Acquisition and Planning for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which administers Maryland's nationally recognized land conservation effort known as Program Open Space. She earned a B.A. in Economics from Penn State University, and a



J.D. and Masters in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. Meredith is a member of the Maryland and Federal bar.