Jim McGlone has a PhD in Human Ecology (aka Economics) from Virginia Tech and a Master's Certificate in Environmental Law and Policy from the USDA Graduate School. He has taught economics at Virginia Tech, Ohio State and Northern Illinois University, and done research at the Economic Research Service of the USDA. A self-taught naturalist and ecologist, he has managed the natural resources of a 500 acre park in Fairfax County and is currently an Urban Forest Conservationist with the Virginia Department of Forestry in Northern Virginia. He and his wife have been practicing conservation landscaping for the past 10 years and eliminated turf grass from their property 7 years ago.