



John Hans Bornsworth

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Owner and principal consultant with Peninsula Environmental Group, Inc., based in Port Angeles, Washington. A Board-Certified Master Arborist (since 2018), a Registered Consulting Arborist (since 2019), Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualified, and Tree Risk Assessment Qualified. My career in the environmental industry began in 2003; practicing as a full-time consulting arborist, forester and urban forester since 2015.

Professional portfolio includes individual tree and forest-wide health, disease and risk assessments, tree management around construction, urban forest management, tree and forest policy development, forest management, environmental restoration and tree appraisals for both public and private clients. Have assessed tens of thousands of individual trees and numerous private and public forested sites up to 5,000 acres, with approximately 50% of work devoted to tree forensics and expert witness testimony related to plant appraisals, tree death, views, tree care, and injury/damage claims.

Instructor for the Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualification course, training other professionals in the application of the Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th edition, and general plant appraisal concepts. Frequent lecturer for arborists, engineers, and contractors on topics related to shoreline ecology, steep slope and wetland habitat restoration, tree risk management and tree protection during development.

Retained for litigation support in more than 90 projects and court-qualified as an expert witness 9 times for issues involving tree risk assessment, tree appraisal, and arboricultural standards of care, for clients including City of Seattle, the City of Mercer Island, and Snohomish County, among others.

- Acquired designation of ISA Board Certified Master Arborist in 2018. Only 10 individuals within the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the ISA held a Board Certified Master Arborist credential at that time.
- As of January 2021, Washington had 14 ASCA¹ Registered Consulting Arborists (RCA) and 30 ISA² Board Certified Master Arborists (BCMA) among 417 ISA Certified Arborists. Only 7 individuals in the state, and less than 100 nationwide, held both the RCA and BCMA credentials at that time.
- Obtained the ASCA Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualification (TPAQ) in December 2023 and became an ASCA-approved TPAQ Instructor Apprentice in March 2025 after attending the second instructor training course in the program's history – one of approximately 12 nationwide.
- Routinely provide expert opinion and testimony on arboricultural and vegetation management to areas of legal practice that include land use, real estate, trespass, personal/property damage, and negligence.
- Retained as expert witness on over 90 projects and have provided sworn testimony over 20 times. Experienced with both plaintiff and defense.

¹ American Society of Consulting Arborists

² International Society of Arboriculture

John Bornsworth - Curriculum Vitae

- Won 2023 Planning Association of Washington Sustainability Award for City of Tumwater Urban Forest Assessment and Management Plan.
- Have consulted, reviewed, or revised over a dozen urban forestry plans, natural resource plans, and tree-related public policy and codes for jurisdictions across Washington state.
- Developed urban forest benchmarking tools to be used in urban forest planning. Benchmarked Washington State urban forestry planning and practices to assist in urban forest planning/development.
- Provided critical area policy and environmental policy to thousands of clients in western Washington since 2014, including policies related to trees, wetlands, shoreline and other environmental assets.
- Represented commercial arboriculture on Washington Urban & Community Forestry Council 2017-2024.

Certifications and Licenses (Current and Lapsed):

- Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Certified Treecare Safety Professional (CTSP) (2024)
- ASCA Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualification (2023)
- Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead CWT21-1143 (2021)
- ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #724 (2019)
- ISA Board Certified Master Arborist # PN-7955BM (2018)
- ASCA Consulting Arborist Academy (2017)
- Wetland Rating in Western Washington (2017)
- Community Tree Management Institute (2016)
- Administering Shoreline Permits in WA (2016)
- ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist (2015-2024)
- ISA Tree Risk Assessor Qualified (2014)
- ISA Certified Arborist (2014)
- Washington Department of Agriculture Commercial Pesticide Operator - aquatic, ornamental and right-of-way endorsements (2011)
- Permaculture Design Certificate (2010)
- Wilderness First Responder, (2009-2017)

Select Litigation Support Experience

General description of select cases:

- Retained by numerous cities and counties in Washington State as both plaintiff and defense expert, including City of Seattle and City of Mercer Island, among others.
- Experience as an expert witness in Washington and Colorado.
- Retained by defendant on construction of a retaining wall in close proximity to significant trees. Plaintiff experts inaccurately assessed trees as high-risk and contributing towards retaining wall failure. Trees were actively conserved through construction of new retaining wall. Pierce County, WA
- Retained by defendant who was sued by neighbor regarding alleged high-risk trees and adjacent construction. Following a forensics evaluation, a settlement retained all Plaintiff's trees with my construction specifications incorporated into the agreement, which included shared boundary lines and access during construction. Pierce County, WA

John Bornsworth – Curriculum Vitae

- Retained by municipality to identify root damage to sewage pipes. King County, WA.
- Retained by plaintiff suffering loss from encroaching tree roots. Roots mitigated and property repaired to pre-injury status. Chelan County, WA.
- Retained by defendant on timber trespass claim. Plaintiff's expert applied inaccurate tree valuation methodologies, leading to a 6-figure inflated valuation. Lewis County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff who sued WA city due to improper tree risk assessment and tree preservation code applications. King County, WA.
- Retained by defendant on timber trespass claim. Plaintiff's expert valued damages at nearly \$1m applying inaccurate appraisal methodologies. Credible valuation was <\$50,000. Pierce County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff regarding view covenants. Multiple years-long support on assessments, permits, settlement language, and construction management. Kitsap County, WA.
- Retained by defendant sued by neighbor under WA timber trespass for removing branches encroaching into their property. Plaintiff's expert claimed six-figure tree damages. No tree damages were awarded following my forensics examination and trail testimony. Clallam County, WA.
- Retained by plaintiff regarding view covenants defined by tree mensuration. Applied advanced tree forensics in fact-finding, resulting in plaintiff's pruning of appropriate trees. Island County, WA.
- Retained by plaintiff whose trees were improperly cut by neighboring airport. Plaintiff awarded treble damages. Clallam County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff who sued neighbor under timber trespass. Defendant's expert inflated tree risk due to inaccurate pathogen identification. After forensics evaluation and trial testimony, Plaintiff awarded >\$1m after trebling. Kitsap County, WA
- Retained by Defendant who was sued by neighbor regarding alleged high-risk trees and adjacent construction. Following a forensics evaluation, a settlement retained all Plaintiff's trees with my construction specifications incorporated into the agreement, which included shared boundary lines and access during construction. Pierce County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff, owner of recorded largest private garden of a specific plant genus, after suffering tree trespass by a neighbor. Jefferson County, WA

Notable Projects, Awards, Accomplishments, Affiliations:

- Developed pioneering ecological silviculture protocols, and analysis techniques, for Washington State Parks in 3,000 acre forested park inventory and analysis.
- Lead presenter on numerous contractor and homeowner workshops for Shore Friendly Programs across Washington State.
- Developed best practices manual for shoreline vegetation management and erosion control.
- Vice Chairperson, Department of Natural Resources Urban & Community Forestry Council (2021)
- Chairperson, Department of Natural Resources Urban & Community Forestry Council (2017-2024)
- Won 2023 Planning Association of Washington Sustainability Award for City of Tumwater Urban Forest Assessment and Management Plan.
- Developed innovative Community Forest Rating System in Washington.
- Developed tree and infrastructure manual in the Pacific Northwest.
- Provide technical assistance to Northwest Straits Foundation on nearshore ecology and vegetation management to landowners across Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound.