



John Bornsworth

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Certifications, Licenses

- ISA Board Certified Master Arborist # PN-7955BM (2018)
- ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #724 (2019)
- ASCA Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualified (2023)
- ISA Certified Municipal Specialist (2015)
- ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified since (2014)
- ISA Certified Arborist (2014)
- Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (2020)
- Washington Community Forestry Council (2017-2024)
- Vice-chair, Washington Community Forestry Council (2021-2022)
- ASCA Consulting Arborist Academy (2017)
- Community Tree Management Institute Certification (2016)
- WSDA Commercial Pesticide Operator (2011)

John Bornsworth is the owner and Principal of Peninsula Environmental Group, Inc., with 20 years of tree-related and natural resources experience. John specializes in urban & community forestry planning and policy; tree forensics, pathology, risk management, and providing expert witness testimony.

- As of January 2021: there are 14 ASCA¹ Registered Consulting Arborists (RCA) and 30 ISA² Board Certified Master Arborists (BCMA) in Washington out of 417 ISA Certified Arborists. Only 7 individuals hold both the RCA and BCMA credentials together. Roughly 300 professionals hold both credentials nationwide.
- Attended and passed first³ Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualification training by ASCA. Less than 200 hold this credential nationwide, as of December 2023.
- Routinely provide expert opinion and testimony on arboricultural, horticulture and vegetation management to areas of legal practice that include land use, real estate, trespass, and negligence.
- Retained as expert witness on 63 projects and have provided sworn testimony 21 times.
- Experienced as expert witness for both plaintiff and defendant.
- 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 and development.
- Provided critical area policy and environmental policy navigation to thousands of clients in western Washington since 2015, including policies related to trees, wetlands, shoreline and other protected environmental assets.
- Represent commercial arboriculture on Washington Urban & Community Forestry Council, since 2017. Vice-chair of council 2020-2022.

¹ American Society of Consulting Arborists
² International Society of Arboriculture
³ Second iteration/edition of training, paused after 3 classes in 2020.

Certifications and Licenses (Current and Lapsed):

- Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualification (2023)
- Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (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)
- 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)
- Helicopter Crew Member (HECM) – National Wildfire Coordinating Group (2009-2014)

Litigation Support Experience

General description of select cases:

- Retained by Defendant. Plaintiff's expert applied inaccurate tree valuation, leading to a 6-figure inflated valuation. Lewis County, WA
- Retained by Plaintiff who sued WA city regarding 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 \$1 million applying inaccurate tree appraisal methodologies. Pierce County, WA
- Retained by Plaintiff regarding view covenants. Multiple years-long support on assessment, plans, settlement language, and project 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 tree 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 >\$1 million 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

John Bornsworth – Curriculum Vitae

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 genera, after suffering tree trespass by a neighbor. Jefferson County, WA
- Retained on many tree appraisals settled prior to litigation.

Notable Projects, Awards, Accomplishments, Affiliations:

- 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.
- Have consulted, reviewed, or revised urban forest, natural resource and tree related municipal and county codes for jurisdictions across the state.
- Provide technical assistance to Northwest Straits Foundation on nearshore ecology and vegetation management to landowners across Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound.

Symposia, Workshops, Professional and Continuing Education:

- Consistently accumulates Continuing Education Credits above the requirements of the International Society of Arboriculture and the American Society of Consulting Arborists.
- Full attendance list available upon request.

Employment:

- **Peninsula Environmental Group, Inc.** | Owner & Principal | Pacific Northwest & U.S. | 2014
- **Sitkum Tree Service** | Consulting Arborist | Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties | 2015
- **City of Shelton** | City Arborist | Shelton | 2014
- **Department of Ecology** | Urban Forestry Supervisor | Western WA | 2013-14
- **South Sound Trees** | Consulting Arborist | South Sound region | 2010-13
- **City of Olympia** | Urban Forest Supervisor, Water Resources Dept. | Olympia. 2012
- **National Park Service** | Trail Construction, Vegetation Monitoring | Mount Rainier | 2011-12
- **US Forest Service** | Trail Construction, Fire Prevention | North Bend/Snoqualmie | 2010-12
- **Washington Trails Association** | Supervisor, Lead Trainer | Mt. Rainier & Puget Sound region | 2008-11
- **Department of Ecology** | Ecological Restoration | Mt. Rainier & Western WA | 2006-8
- **Cabrillo National Monument** | Vegetation Monitoring | San Diego, CA | 2005-6
- **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** | Vegetation Monitoring | Borrego Springs, CA | 2004
- **Santa Monica Mountains Natural Recreation Area** | Vegetation Monitoring | Santa Monica, CA | 2003