



John Bornsworth

824 E 8th St, Ste D | Port Angeles, WA 98362
 Office: (360) 504-3825 - E-mail: john@peninsulaeg.com
 Web: www.peninsulaenvironmental.com

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, as of January 2021.
- 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 over 55 projects and have provided sworn testimony approximately 20 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 the 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):

- Ordinary High Watermark Delineation (2024)
- 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 who was sued by private landowner for alleged over-logging. Plaintiff's expert incorrectly applied amenity tree valuation to the timber commodity, leading to an inflated valuation. Lewis County, WA
- Retained by Plaintiff who sued WA City for regarding tree risk assessment and tree preservation around construction. King County, WA.
- Retained by Defendant on timber trespass claim. Plaintiff's expert valued damages at nearly \$1 million applying incorrect tree appraisal methodologies. Pierce County, WA
- Retained by an HOA Plaintiff who sued private landowner over existing view conventions. I provided support over multiple years on the view plans, settlement agreement, and managing pruning crew for multiple weeks. Kitsap County, WA.
- Retained by Defendant sued by neighbor under WA timber trespass for removing branches encroaching into their property. The 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 suing for view rights which were defined by tree age. Used micro-resistance drills and geospatial techniques to determine age of trees, which resulted in Plaintiff's pruning of the appropriate trees. Island County, WA.
- Retained by Plaintiff whose trees were improperly cut by neighboring airport. Plaintiff awarded treble damages. Clallam County, WA

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- Retained by Plaintiff who sued neighbor under timber trespass for removing common property tree during single-family home development. Defendant’s expert inflated tree risk due to inaccurate pathogen identification. After my forensics evaluation and trial testimony, Plaintiff awarded \$1.4 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 construction specifications incorporated into the agreement, which included shared boundary lines and access during construction. Pierce County, WA
- Retained by the owner of the U.S.'s largest private garden of a specific plant genera, a Plaintiff who suffered tree trespass by a neighbor. Jefferson County, WA
- Retained on numerous tree appraisals settled prior to litigation. Across Washington State.

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.
- Consistently accumulates Continuing Education Credits above requirements of the International Society of Arboriculture and the American Society of Consulting Arborists.

Symposia, Workshops, Professional and Continuing Education:

2024	Advanced Arboriculture and Tree Science	8 hours	VerityMedia, Inc.	Arboriculture
2024	Trees And The Design/Build Industries: Science, Design, and Sustainability	8 hours	VerityMedia, Inc.	Arboriculture
2024	Using the Western Washington Wetland Rating System (5-year renewal)	24 hours	Washington Department of Ecology	Ecology
2024	Determining Ordinary High Water Mark In Western Washington (5-year renewal)	24 hours	Washington Department of Ecology	Ecology
2024	Trees and the Law #2: Competing Interests in Street Trees	1 hour	American Society of Consulting Arborists	Arboriculture
2023	Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualification Course	16 hours	American Society of Consulting Arborists	Arboriculture

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2023	2023 ASCA Annual Conference: Renton, WA	24 hours	American Society of Consulting Arborists	Arboriculture
2023	Using the 2021 Interagency Wetland Mitigation Guidance	12 hours	WA Department of Ecology	Wetlands Mitigation
2023	Diagnosis and Management of Insect Pests of Trees	1 hour	Pacific Northwest ISA	Arboriculture/Forestry
2023	Rethinking the Tree From the Ground Up - A Philosophical Approach	1 hour	International Society of Arboriculture	Arboriculture
2022	Partners in Community Forestry	24 hours	Arbor Day Foundation	Urban & Community Forestry
2022	ISA Virtual Conference	32 hours	International Society of Arboriculture	Arboriculture
2022	Fungus Wars in Trees Webinar. 1 hour	1 hour	American Society of Consulting Arborists	Arboriculture/Forestry
2022	2022 Urban Forestry Symposium	16 hours	WSU Center for Horticulture	Urban & Community Forestry
2021	Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead	16 hours	WA Department of Ecology	Stormwater
2021	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training	80 hours	WA Department of Commerce	Critical Areas
2021	Forest Mushrooms of the PNW	24 hours	Backcountry Press	Ecology
2021	2021 Urban Forest Symposium, Urban Forest Reboot: Challenge & Change	16 hours	WSU Center for Horticulture	Urban & Community Forestry
2020	Tree Risk Assessment Qualification	24 hours	Pacific Northwest Chapter ISA	Arboriculture
2019	ASCA Annual Conference : New Orleans, LA	32 hours	American Society of Consulting Arborists	Arboriculture
2019	Trees and Fauna : Case Law Updates	8 hours	The Seminar Group	Expert Witness & Legal
2019	2019 Urban Forest Symposium	16 hours	WSU Center for Horticulture	Urban & Community Forestry
2019	Puget Sound Coastal Processes, Shoreline Modifications, and Beach Restoration	8 hours	WA Department of Ecology	Shoreline Ecology
2019	Coastal Processes of Washington Coasts. 8 hours.	8 hours	WA Department of Ecology	Shoreline Ecology
2019	PNW ISA Annual Conference, Eugene OR	32 hours	Pacific Northwest ISA	Arboriculture
2019	Olympic Invasives Working Group	8 hours	Olympic Invasives Working Group	Invasive Plant Management
2018	International Urban Forest Symposium. Vancouver, BC	24 hours	International Urban Forest Symposium	Urban & Community Forestry

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2018	Using the Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines for Marine Shoreline Stabilization	12 hours	Coastal Training Institute	Environmental Policy
2018	Puget Sound Coastal Processes, Shoreline Modifications, and Beach Restoration	12 hours	Coastal Training Institute	Environmental Policy
2017	10 th Edition of the Plant Appraisal Guide	8 hours	American Society of Consulting Arborists First Training on 10 th Ed.	Arboriculture
2017	ASCA Annual Conference: Stevenson, WA	24 hours	American Society of Consulting Arborists	Arboriculture
2017	Trees & The Law	8 hours	Pacific Northwest ISA	Arboriculture
2017	Consulting Academy	32 hours	American Society of Consulting Arborists	Arboriculture
2017	Olympic Invasives Working Group	8 hours	Olympic Invasives Working Group	Invasive Plant Management
2017	PNW ISA Annual Conference: Lynwood, WA	24 hours	Pacific Northwest ISA	Arboriculture
2016	Pacific Madrone Symposium	6 hours	WSU Extension in Puyallup	Arboriculture
2016	Administering Development Permits in Washington Shorelines	12 hours	Coastal Training Institute	Environmental Policy
2016	Landscapes on the Edge: Shoreline restoration	16 hours	WSU Center for Urban Horticulture	Shoreline Ecology & Arboriculture
2016	Using Western WA Wetland Rating Course	16 hours	WA Dept. Of Ecology	Wetlands & Botany
2016	2016 Urban Forestry Symposium	16 hours	WSU Center for Horticulture	Urban & Community Forestry
2016	Community Tree Management Institute	60 hours	WA and OR Urban & Community Forestry. OSU.	Urban & Community Forestry
2015	2015 Urban Forestry Symposium	16 hours	WSU Center for Horticulture	Urban & Community Forestry
2015	Shoreline Vegetation Management Workgroup	8 hours	Pacific Northwest ISA	Shoreline Ecology & Arboriculture
2015	Clallam County Noxious Weed Workgroup	6 hours	Clallam County Noxious Weed Board	Invasive Plant Management
2014	Tree Pruning for Plant Health	16 hours	WSDA Pesticide Training	Invasive Plant Management
2014	Tree Risk Assessment Qualification	24 hours	Pacific Northwest Chapter ISA	Arboriculture
2014	Clallam County Noxious Weed Workgroup	4 hours	Clallam County Noxious Weed Board	Invasive Plant Management
2014	Riparian botany and plant communities	6 hours	Sarah Cooke, Ph. D.	Botany
2014	WA State Urban & Community Forestry Seminar	6 hours	WA DNR Urban & Community Forestry	Urban & Community Forestry

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2014	2014 Urban Forestry Symposium	16 hours	WSU Center for Horticulture	Urban & Community Forestry
2013	WA State Urban & Community Forestry Seminar	5 hours	WA DNR Urban & Community Forestry	Urban & Community Forestry
2013	Thurston County Noxious Weed Workgroup	4 hours	Thurston County Noxious Weed Board	Invasive Plant Management
2012	Urban Forestry Restoration Program	40 hours	WA DNR Urban & Community Forestry	Urban & Community Forestry
2012	Thurston County Noxious Weed Workgroup	4 hours	Thurston County Noxious Weed Board	Invasive Plant Management
2011	Thurston County Noxious Weed Workgroup. 4 hours.	4 hours	Thurston County Noxious Weed Board	Invasive Plant Management
2010	Redwoods National Park - Advanced aerial rigging	40 hours	National Park Service	Wilderness Construction
2010	Advanced trail features	24 hours	National Park Service	Wilderness Construction
2008	Wilderness First Responder Certification	72 hours	National Outdoor Leadership School	Wilderness Medicine
2005	Coastal geomorphology	60 hours	North San Diego Community College	Geology
2005	Desert Plant Morphology/Botanical drawing	60 hours	North San Diego Community College	Botany
2005	Geological and marine field class	46 hours	North San Diego Community College	Geology
2004	Desert Plant Morphology/Botanical Drawing	80 hours	North San Diego Community College	Botany
2004	Botanical Morphology/Botanical Drawing	80 hours	North San Diego Community College	Botany

Employment:

- **Peninsula Environmental Group, Inc.** | Owner & Principal | Pacific Northwest & U.S. | 2015
- **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