



John Hans Bornsworth

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Consulting Arborist, Ecologist & Urban Forester

Owner of Peninsula Environmental Group, Inc., based in Port Angeles, Washington. A Board-Certified Master Arborist (since 2018), Registered Consulting Arborist (since 2019), Certified Urban Forest Professional (2015–2024), Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualified (approved instructor), and Tree Risk Assessment Qualified. My career in the natural resources industry began in 2003, practicing as a full-time consultant since 2015.

Professional portfolio includes individual tree and forest-wide health, disease, and risk assessments; natural asset valuation and tree appraisal; tree management around construction; forest health and analysis; urban forest policy and management; shoreline, stream, and wetland mitigation and restoration and permitting 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, while also supporting hundreds of projects involving shorelines, wetlands, steep slopes, habitat restoration, and environmental regulatory compliance. Approximately 40% of work involves tree and ecological forensics, litigation support, and expert witness testimony related to tree valuation, tree death, personal injury and property damage, land use, environmental mitigation, construction impacts, chemical causation, and duty- and standard-of-care.

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 homeowners, arborists, engineers, contractors, and environmental professionals on tree management, shoreline ecology, environmental restoration, and tree protection during development.

Retained for litigation support in more than 100 projects and court-qualified as an expert witness 13 times. Retained as an expert witness in Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and Michigan.

- Routinely provide expert opinion and testimony on arboriculture, tree risk, ecology, environmental mitigation & policy, duty- and standard-of-care interpretation, and chemical fate and causation in matters involving land use and permitting, real estate, trespass, personal injury, property damage, and negligence.
- 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

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.
- Served as Project Arborist for tree protection planning for thousands of trees associated with single-family, multifamily, and commercial developments, as well as roadway and public infrastructure improvements, for projects with total contract values exceeding \$100 million.
- 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.

Short Client List:

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| ➤ City of Seattle | ➤ Kutak Rock LLP |
| ➤ City of Mercer Island | ➤ Schroeter Goldmark & Bender |
| ➤ Snohomish County | ➤ Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC |
| ➤ Clyde & Co. | ➤ Carney Badley Spellman, P.S. |
| ➤ Holland & Hart LLP | ➤ Piucci Law |
| ➤ Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP | ➤ Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland, PLLC |
| ➤ Keller Rohrback L.L.P. | ➤ Helsell Fetterman LLP |

Certifications and Licenses (Current and Lapsed):

- Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Certified Treecare Safety Professional (CTSP) (2024)
- ASCA Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualification (2023), and Approved Instructor (2024)
- Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL) 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 Urban Forest Professional (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:

- Lead arboricultural expert for plaintiffs in *Bond v City of Portland*. Conducted forensic investigation of tree failure, municipal code review, standard-of-care evaluation, and expert analysis of tree risk assessment principles, methodology and application, resulting in negligence verdict against the City. Portland, OR
- Retained by defendant commercial property owner in a fatal tree failure case. Conducted forensic investigation, including site reconstruction, identification of the failed tree from police records, and municipal records review. King County, WA
- Retained by defendant, a large municipality, in case of tree failure inside public park causing severe injury, involving duty-of-care evaluation. King County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff in wetland land-wasting and tree trespass litigation involving environmental policy, tree appraisal, and arboricultural and ecological forensics. After trial commenced and following expert testimony, the defendant settled for the full amount sought, including treble damages. Kitsap County, WA
- Retained by commercial defendant in timber trespass and appraisal. Inflated 6 figure valuation from plaintiff; more credible appraisal resulted in 90% decrease. Gunnison County, CO.
- Retained by defendant in chemical and timber trespass litigation involving alleged herbicide injury to trees. Included forensic investigation of glyphosate exposure and transport pathways, species-specific susceptible, residue interpretation and chemical causation. Okanogan County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff in litigation involving tree failure, coastal bluff instability, and landslide causation. Conducted forensic investigation of tree biomechanics, arboricultural practices, slope failure mechanisms, and hazardous tree removal methods on an unstable coastal bluff following sequential landslide events. Island County, WA.
- Retained by defendant regarding retaining wall construction adjacent to significant trees. Plaintiff experts inaccurately characterized trees as high-risk and contributing to wall failure. Trees were successfully retained during reconstruction of new retaining wall. Pierce County, WA
- Retained by defendant in chemical and timber trespass litigation involving alleged tebuthiuron injury to trees. Conducted forensic evaluation of herbicide fate and transport, residue interpretation, species-specific susceptibility, and chemical causation. Kitsap County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff in wetland and stream land wasting and timber trespass matter against land developer, involving tree and ecological forensics, tree valuation, and restoration of wetland and stream functions. Lewis County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff following removal of mature coniferous trees. Conducted forensic investigation to quantify water incident, water budget and stormwater volumes associated tree removals.
- 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 Consultant's construction specifications incorporated into the agreement, which included construction processes and timelines. Pierce County, WA
- Retained by plaintiff in litigation involving alleged groundwater flooding following removal of mature coniferous trees. Conducted interdisciplinary forensic investigation integrating arboriculture, tree hydrology, meteorological records, and empirical Department of Ecology research to quantify canopy interception, transpiration, and stormwater mitigation associated with mature Douglas-fir and western redcedar.

- 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 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 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 residential plaintiff under timber trespass. Defendant's expert inflated tree risk due to inaccurate pathogen identification. After forensics investigation and trial testimony, plaintiff awarded >\$1m. Kitsap 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.

Presentations & Training

2026 Scheduled PNW-ISA. Tree and Plant Qualification. 2-days.

2026 Scheduled PNW-ISA. Trees and Construction. 1-day.

2026 Scheduled PNW-ISA. Managing Trees & Vegetation on Puget Sound Shorelines. 1-day.

2026 Scheduled King County Shore Friendly Program. Shoreline Management Workshop for Homeowners. 1-day.

2026 Kitsap Shore Friendly Program. Shoreline Management Workshop for Homeowners, Kingston, WA

2025 Kitsap Shore Friendly Program. Shoreline Management Workshop for Contractors. Lecture on coastal geology, shoreline processes, tree and plant physiology and function, tree care, noxious weeds, shoreline restoration and shoreline drainage. Silverdale, WA. 1-day.

2025 Montana Association of Nurserymen. Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualification. 2-day.

John Bornsworth – Curriculum Vitae

2025 Northwest Straits Foundation. Series of Shoreline Workshops for Contractors. Lecture on shoreline processes, tree physiology, tree care, noxious weeds, shoreline restoration and drainage. Workshops held in San Juan Island, Bellingham, Sequim, Island County, Stanwood. 1-day each.

2024 Northwest Straits Foundation. Shoreline Management Workshop for Homeowners, Stillaguamish Tribe

2023 Olympic Peninsula Fungi Festival, Port Angeles, WA. Trees & Fungi

2023 Clallam Master Gardeners. Urban Tree Benefits.

2019 City of Tacoma City Council. Presentation on One Tacoma Urban Forest Management Plan.

2019 City Council Port Angeles, WA. Effective Municipal Tree Ordinances.

2018 Port Angeles Tree Advisory Council. Benefits of Urban Trees.

2017 Dungeness River Festival – Olympic Audubon. Watershed Health in Arboriculture.

2017 Peninsula College, Port Angeles, Washington. Community Forests and Native Forests Tour.

2017 Olympic Invasives Working Group, Sequim, WA. Engaging Private Residences in Invasive Plant Management.

2017 Earth Day Celebration of Science, Port Angeles, WA. Using Science in our Daily Lives.

2016 New Dungeness Nursery, Sequim, WA. Plant Physiology in Relation to Pruning.

2015 Department of Ecology's Washington Conservation Corps. Lead trainer of 4-day Arboriculture & Tree Climbing Workshop.

2014 Department of Ecology's Washington Conservation Corps. Lead trainer of 4-day Arboriculture & Tree Climbing Workshop.

Articles and Publications

Bornsworth, J. (2025, May). *Puget Sound Waterfront Properties and Arborists*. PNW-ISA Trees. Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Bornsworth, J. (2025, June). *Assumptions Rooted in Speculation*. Arboricultural Consultant, American Society of Consulting Arborists.

Bornsworth, J. (2021, February 21). *One Canopy – Many Considerations*. PNW-ISA Trees. Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Longworth, J. (2016, April 10). *Black cottonwood recruitment on coarse and fine sediment terraces on the old Lake Mills lakebed, Olympic National Park, WA*. Peninsula College; Olympic National Park.
