



NORTHWEST TRADITIONAL ARCHERS *Expo*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24th @ 6PM



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PAUL FORWARD

Paul grew up in Eagle River, Alaska with a father who, in many ways, had structured his life around being in the outdoors with a particular passion for traditional bowhunting. Paul had a bow in his hand before his earliest memories and was small game hunting with it at a young age. Not long after his 12th birthday, he shot my first moose with a recurve and then a caribou shortly thereafter (early Haul road days!). Twenty-eight years later he's more obsessed than ever with getting close to animals and experiencing the Alaskan wilderness with a longbow or recurve in hand.

Paul has never measured hunting success by antlers or number of animals killed but has been fortunate to fill the freezer throughout his life with his bow. Highlights have been myriad super close bull moose encounters with his dad, a variety of long solo mountain goat and Dall sheep hunts, and countless hours getting humbled by cagey old blacktail bucks. Paul mostly hunts solo, always with trad bow, and get as much fulfillment from weeks spent in the wilderness by himself as he does from any animal killed. So far, his hunting interests remain confined to the Alaskan wilderness. He feels like there are many lifetimes worth of learning from and hunting the animals of that great state and he just can't pry myself away to hunt anywhere else, at least August through December.

Paul currently lives in Girdwood with his wife and son (born May 2019) both of whom love to share in wilderness adventures whenever possible. They took their son on his first multi-day backpack hunt on Kodiak when he was 2 months old. (He didn't protest too loudly so we all just assume he loved it!)



When not playing in the rivers and mountains Paul works as a part-time rural family doctor, usually traveling to Kotzebue once per month to work in the ER. Prior to that he had a similar schedule working in Kodiak. Paul also teaches Wilderness Medicine courses for healthcare and outdoor professionals.

Paul's other nearly lifelong passions include whitewater kayaking and backcountry skiing. For the past 12 years he's spent his winters working as a full time heli ski guide but have also pursued human powered big mountain skiing in mountains around the world. Whether summer or winter and with skis, kayak or bow as motivation, there's nothing that makes him happier than being deep in the wilderness.

Paul currently serves on the board of directors for the Alaska Bowhunting Association and the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance and remain active on various conservation issues.