

PRESS RELEASE JANUARY 13, 2011

TIGHTLINES

OLYMPIC FLY FISHERS OF EDMONDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 13, 2011

Award-winning National Editor Tom Pero to Speak at Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds February Meeting

Nationally known fly-fishing writer, editor and publisher Tom Pero will speak at the Wednesday, February 9 2011 meeting of the Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds club.

The meeting is at the South County Senior Center, 220 Railroad Avenue, Edmonds, WA. A social hour from 6 to 7 p.m. is followed by dinner with the speaker following. Non-members are welcome, but must register in advance:

Please Register to Attend:
Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds
Contact: Mr. Bill MacDonald
E-Mail: wcmacdonald@hotmail.com
Subject: Reservations - Tom Pero

Invited Guest Speaker Tom Pero

Last year Tom Pero was awarded the prestigious Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal for his longtime and significant contribution to the enhancement, protection and preservation of coldwater fisheries. The award was presented in West Yellowstone, Montana, at Wild Trout Symposium X, an international gathering of fisheries scientists held every five years.

At the February 9 meeting in Edmonds, Pero will read from stories he has written on exotic fishing destinations—from Russia to Cuba to Guatemala to the Amazon—and discuss his many adventures and colorful characters he has met along the way. He will also read uncensored excerpts from his book, *Till Death or Fly Fishing Do Us Part*, a collection of humorous essays about what happens when one person's obsession for the sport collides with his or her romantic relationship.

Pero was born and raised in New England. At 18 he became the youngest chapter president in Trout Unlimited, the fishery conservation organization, history when he started the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of TU. During the 1970s his early writing helped focus attention on the neglected salter brook trout fishery and the developing sea-run brown trout fishery on Cape Cod.

In 1977, at age 23, Pero was named the first full-time editor of Trout Magazine, the national publication of Trout Unlimited. He used his 16 years at Trout to make the magazine exciting and influential. Twice it was named Conservation Magazine of the Year, beating out magazines with substantially larger circulations and reputations such as Audubon and Sierra. He introduced the legendary trout biologist, Robert Behnke, to readers of Trout in a popular column. In recent years he founded the magazines



Wild Steelhead & Salmon and Fish & Fly, both of which also won critical acclaim for excellence in journalism and graphics.

Pero is now busy creating books. His Wild River Press (www.wildriverpress.com) company—based in Mill Creek—published *A Passion for Steelhead* by Dec Hogan, widely acknowledged as the new bible on fly fishing for the iconic Pacific Northwest game fish. And in 2010, after four years in development, Wild River released the much-anticipated *A Passion for Tarpon* by Andy Mill, featuring a special foreword by the first President Bush. The book has been nominated for more than a dozen national awards for excellence. *Atlantic Salmon Magic* will soon go to press.

During the last three decades nearly all the famous fly-fishing writers have written for Tom Pero's publications—including Thomas McGuane, Nick Lyons, Lefty Kreh, Dave Whitlock, Lee Wulff, Joan Wulff, Datus Proper, Steve Raymond, Ernest Schwiebert, Art Lee, Paul Schullery, John Gierach and others. Once, when working on a story about Atlantic salmon restoration during the 1980s, he approached Red Sox great Ted Williams on the banks of the Miramichi River in New Brunswick for a quote. The notoriously gruff Williams said, "I don't like writers." "I know," replied Pero, "but I fish." He got the interview. Pero's lengthy talk with the reclusive Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate of England and an avid angler, caused a sensation in the British and European press when published just after Hughes's death in 1998.

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