



Constructing the Catamaran

Photos by Michael Freeman

Willie Pack, above, sands a 32-foot long catamaran Tuesday that he and his father are building in a Hutto storage shed. Below, Tom and Willie Pack stand by one of the hulls they are finishing up. After they are done with both, the boat will be shipped down to the coast where it'll be assembled and launched.

Father, son build boat with rare design

By MICHAEL FREEMAN

Next winter, Tom Pack is thinking of being in Georgetown — not the one where he lives, but the city by the same name in the Bahamas.

"I get cedar fever," he said. "You're not going to see me January, February, March. I'm going to be in the Bahamas."

He plans to get there in a 32-foot long catamaran he and his son, Willie, are building at a storage unit in Hutto. The two have never built a boat before, but it's

always been a dream for the sailing family.

"He's been talking about this for most of my life," Willie said. "It's all finally coming together."

Tom worked for drilling companies where he discovered his love for boating before serving in the Vietnam War. Willie went to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, where he raced boats competitively. Nearly three years ago, the father and son decided to

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Novelist to talk writers' motives

James Magnuson's latest novel pokes fun at literary life on campus, from students' onepmanship to the fawning over fellow writers.

Mr. Magnuson, who serves as the director of the James A. Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas, will discuss the book, *Famous Writers I Have Known*, at Thursday's Hill Country Author Series put on by the Friends of the Georgetown Library.

"It's a satire on mistaken identity," said Ricki McMillian, chairman of the Hill Country Author Series.

For more than a decade, the Friends of the Georgetown Library have hosted a few author events each year. The funds raised from the events are funneled back to the library for projects that could not be budgeted.

"It funds unbudgeted items the library requests," Ms. McMillian said. "It's kind of like their wish list."

In the past, the group's fund-raising efforts have purchased a bookmobile and funded many youth projects. During the last fiscal year, the Friends of the Georgetown Library donated more than \$40,000.

Mr. Magnuson has written nine novels and numerous essays. He is a former Hodder Fellow at Princeton University, has received a

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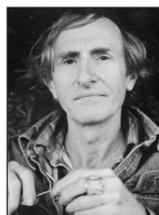
Exhibit celebrates artist's life

Ruth Roberts intends the celebration honoring her late husband, Don Snell, not to be a somber affair.

"I'm hoping for a lot of funny stories," Ms. Roberts said. "He did not take himself very seriously, but he took his work seriously."

Mr. Snell, who died January 6 at age 91, spent more than five decades painting, photographing and sculpting, the latter part of that time while in Georgetown. In 2010, the Austin Visual Arts Association gave Mr. Snell a lifetime achievement award, and two years later, Mayor George Garver gave him a similar award.

His work will be displayed in the Georgetown Art Center, 816 South Main Street, from now until June 1. His paintings from the 1950s to the



Don Snell
Featured artist

2000s will be on display.

"It's a good range," Ms. Roberts said. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

The celebration will also be there from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 10. The celebration will be free to attend.

Mr. Snell was born in 1922 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His family moved to Kansas City, Kansas, when he was 3 years old.

After serving in World War II in the United States Army Air Corps and later

the Air Force, Mr. Snell enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin, where he developed his love for art. He traveled the country and taught at Tulane University, Arlington State College and the University of Houston before settling in Georgetown where he and his wife built their home.

His work not only was shown at his home studio but also around the U.S. and Europe. Mr. Snell was mainly known for his expressive figurative paintings, some adorned with philosophical quotes.

He was often seen sitting with his wife and their friends, drinking coffee, reading the newspaper and passing out "good karma" bucks to passersby.

— Michael Freeman



Michael Freeman

Wild Ride

Chet Garner, in the alligator suit, and Todd White, in the pig suit, prepare to ride around the Square as they shoot a commercial Tuesday. The video for DriveCleanAcrossTexas.org will promote cleaner methods of transportation. For the video, the duo demonstrated how people could ride their bicycles and do errands, such as picking up animal costumes. The commercial will be posted on thedaytripper.com soon, Mr. Garner said.