

Record low snowpack reported across Oregon

For the second consecutive year, Oregon's mountains are experiencing record-low snowpack levels, according to the latest snow survey data from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

While the state has received near-normal amounts of rainfall since October 1—the beginning of the water year—mountain temperatures have been unusually warm. As a result, 44 out of 110 long-term snow monitoring sites in Oregon measured record- or near-record-low levels for snowpack on February 1. Some areas were snow-free for the first time on record.

"It's been a warm and rainy winter in the Oregon mountains this year. Most of our sites in the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains are measuring record low snow-pack levels right now," said Melissa Webb, a hydrologist with the NRCS Oregon snow survey team. "There is grass growing in areas that are normally buried under many feet of snow. There is still time for improvement in our

snowpack, but at this point, a full recovery is unlikely.”

Without significant snowfall in February and March, NRCS hydrologists predict that streams and rivers typically fed by snowmelt will experience well-below-normal flows this summer.

“Winter rainfall can help improve reservoir storage and increase streamflows during storms, but it has little effect on streamflow later in the season,” Webb said.

“We depend on the snowmelt to provide a steady water supply over the summer months. While winter rain does help, it doesn’t provide the same level of certainty as having a known quantity of frozen water stored in the mountain snowpack.”

The latest information on Oregon's streamflow forecasts can be found in the February *Water Supply Outlook Report*. NRCS releases these reports at the beginning of each month during the snowpack season, Jan. 1 through June 1. All water supply reports are available on the NRCS Oregon snow survey website at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snow.

Typewriter exhibit features art, writing

By David Jasper
The Bulletin

BEND (AP) — Long before the advent of tablets, laptops and, heck, fax machines, the sound of clacking typewriters, with their telltale dings and whooshing carriage returns, filled offices.

Not so much anymore. However, the nearly obsolete machines are getting some love this month at Atelier 6000 (A6) Printmaking Studio and Gallery in the Old Mill District of Bend.

Manual typewriters were on display when "The Typewriter Returns!" opened during First Friday gallery walk.

The exhibit, which will be up through February 28, is both visual and tactile.

First, the visual component: The show features contemporary prints of antique typewriters by printmakers Ben Rosenberg and Carol Wax, who use centuries-old printmaking techniques to create their works.

Visitors will see nine of Wax's pieces, seven of Rosenberg's.

To create his painterly prints, Rosenberg favors monotype, a

process described at www.benrosenbergillustration.com as singular works created by painting images on a plate surface which are then transferred to paper using an etching press. They are either a single color or hand-colored using watercolors or gouache.

"It's a completely unique, one-of-a-kind print," said A6 Executive Director Dawn Boone.

Wax, who lives on the East Coast, originally trained to be a classical musician but fell in love with printmaking, according to her biography at www.carolwax.com.

Boone calls Wax the queen of mezzotint, a laborious intaglio technique developed in the 17th century in which the artist works a plate to reveal a range of blacks, grays and whites. Wax wrote a book on mezzotint, "The Mezzotint: History and Technique," first published in 1990.

"It's kind of fun, because it's the same subject matter, but two totally different processes. One's very controlled and meticulous, and the other is very loose and impressionistic," Boone said.

Along with the prints, there will be about nine antique typewriters on hand.

Atelier 6000 holds its Students to A6 program several times a year, and is in contact with several Central Oregon schools about visiting.

For those who'd like to learn more about mezzotint, visiting artist Leigh Knowles Meeter will give an "Intro to Mezzotint" Art Talk at 7 p.m. Feb. 13.

Additionally, Boone said, “Classes will be coming in, and we’ll be explaining the difference between monotype and mezzotint, and then the kids will have a creative writing exercise writing six-words (sic) stories on the antique typewriters in the exhibit.”

The community is also invited to participate in the story-writing exercise.

Boone said, “I think there’s a little bit of nostalgia around (typewriters). There’s such a fun, tactile quality to them. The experience feels more authentic.”

There's also a beauty to them, she added.

"They're practical, but now it's an art form to type with them because it's all done by hand again. And then of course (there's) the sounds they make. They're a relic, but I think people don't want to see them disappear."

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