



Pottery

Paul Koch, who operates a kiln at in the Macedonia area, was the guest speaker at the Treynor Optimist Club on August 4. Paul built a 20' x 40' pottery barn for his craft.

Paul started out like most pottery artists, creating functional items, and later added sculptural pottery involving the Japanese method. Most pottery artists are taught by someone else. Sharing ideas and fellowship are an important part of the pottery process.

Paul purchases two tons of clay at a time from Minnesota. He purchases porcelain from Kentucky. Local clays work well for brick but not for pottery.

Paul adds oxides to the clay for color, which becomes apparent after firing. There are two ways to tell if pottery is fired to the proper temperature. A digital pyrometer can be used, or pyrometric cones which melt at different temperatures between 1,600 and 2,400

degrees.

Paul started using a wood kiln, but later changed to a propane and wood kiln. His pottery and porcelain are for sale at the Grist Mill Theater and at the Gift shop at Carson operated by Chuck Bickel. His work can also be seen at Malvern's Street Festival, the Corning, Iowa Center for Fine Arts, and at various summer arts festivals. Go to www.potterybythecreek.com for good information and pictures of his works.