

# The Ager Newsletter

The Waldemar T. Ager Association

May-July 2011



## ***Current Events***

Saturday, June 4, 1-3 p.m.  
Ager Association Outdoor Event  
at the Ager House!

**Learn to Play Kubb.  
Everyone Welcome!**

June 20, 9:30 a.m.: Board  
Meeting at the Ager House

July 9: U.S. National Kubb  
Tournament sponsored in part  
by the Ager Association

July 18, 9:30 a.m.: Board  
Meeting at the Ager House

SON Heritage Youth Day  
Braun's Bay at Carson Park  
July 21, 12 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**The Waldemar T. Ager  
Association**  
514 W. Madison St.  
P.O. Box 1742  
Eau Claire, WI  
54702-1742  
715.834.3985  
[www.agerhouse.org](http://www.agerhouse.org)

## **Play Kubb with the Experts!**



**Board member Eric Anderson will lead a demonstration of the ancient Viking game Kubb at the next Ager Association Outdoor Event on Saturday June 4, 2011, 1-3 p.m., at the Ager House. Play will be held in the park next to the Ager House. U.S. National Kubb Champions Aaron Ellringer and Dave Ellringer from Eau Claire will be attending and will be happy to teach the game to interested players.**

Kubb (pronounced koob) is a cross between bocce ball and horseshoes. Kubb may be played in sand, on a grassy lawn, or in the snow. On a competitive level, the game Kubb demands skill and strategy but may be just as much fun for beginners and children. Some call the game "Viking Chess."

The game is laid out on a field fifteen by twenty-five feet. Pieces are set up on each end with a king in the middle. Using wooden sticks, two teams try to knock down each other's pieces and then knock down the king. Players toss the sticks underhand. This game is believed to have originated in France but is known to have been widely played by the Vikings over 1,000 years ago.

**Join in the fun on Saturday, June 4, 2011, at the Ager House. Learn how to play Kubb, tour the house, and visit with friends. Refreshments will be served.**

**On July 9, 2011, the U.S. National Kubb Tournament will be held at the Eau Claire soccer park, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and you will understand the game and enjoy attending the tournament. The Ager Association will be one of the sponsors and has provided a rosemaled trophy for the champion. For more information, please visit [www.wisconsinkubb.com](http://www.wisconsinkubb.com).**

## **Treasurer's Report**

We wish to thank our members for their generous support after we sent out the membership letter in January. We have received \$3,375.00 in membership donations to date vs. \$2,620.00 for all of last year. Our other income comes from classes, meetings, and special events throughout the year. Thank you for your enthusiastic response.

Stan Hillestad, Treasurer

## Ager's Desk Returns to Eau Claire

After a thirty-seven year tour of duty in New York and California, Waldemar Ager's desk has returned to the Ager House. Waldemar's grandson, Tryg Ager, was given the desk by his father in 1974, and it was shipped to Tryg's home in New York -- just days before Tryg's daughter, Emily, was born. From there, in 1980, the desk traveled to Palo Alto, California, in a Ryder rental truck with Tryg driving. Somewhere along a highway in Wyoming a bullet hit the "R" in Ryder, entered the truck and struck the back of the desk. The mark is still visible. Tryg's son, Andrew, later used the desk in high school. Tryg refinished the desk, and in February of this year shipped it back to Eau Claire from California. When it arrived, Norb Wurtzel, Tom Thompkins and Ken Ziehr unpacked it, and reassembled it for placement in its original spot at the Ager House. Be sure to stop in and see our newest acquisition at the Ager House.



Tryg Ager, Waldemar T. Ager's grandson, shipped his grandfather's desk from California to Eau Claire in February. Tryg and his wife, Judy Nyquist, reside in Silver Spring, MD. (Photo by Norb Wurtzel.)

## New Ager Association Display at the Public Library



During May, 2011, the Ager Association is featured in two display cases at the public library.

We wanted to show Ager as the editor of *Reform* so in the first case we have a copy of the newspaper that was printed on July 31, 1941, the day before he died. There are also some photos of the printing office. The *Reform Sampler* showing excerpts from various issues of the newspaper and a copy of the masthead are included.

The other case shows Ager as an author, with several of his books and some artifacts like his pipe and a photo of Waldemar and Gurole. There is a photo of the bronze wall piece from the public library noting his years of service on the board.



We tried to emphasize classes offered at the Ager House, with samples of some of the crafts like hardanger, rosemaling and chip carving. There are brochures and past issues of our newsletter on top of the case for people to take, as well as a poster for Syttende Mai.

By Helen Wurtzel and John Peterson  
Photos by Norb Wurtzel

# Donations to the Ager Association

## Contributions to the Ager Association

Borgny Ager – in memory of her parents, Eyvind and Inga Ager  
Bob Fraser – in memory of Jane Fraser  
Richard A. Hagen – in memory of Harald and Genevieve Hagen  
Johanna Shager Hocker – in memory of Olaf Einar Shager  
Rick & Sherene Nicolai – in memory of Hildur Ager Nicolai  
Steve & Hildur Gleason – to Honor the Ager House Volunteers  
Kathleen Stokker – in Honor of the Ager Association  
Daniel & Carolyn Johnson – General Fund  
Marilyn Jones – General Fund  
Barbara King – General Fund  
Mary S. Kohler – General Fund  
Ev Krigsvold – General Fund  
Ray & Betty Larson – General Fund  
Steve Loken – General Fund  
John Peterson – General Fund  
Martin & Marion Stephenson – General Fund



**Thank You!**

## Books Donated to the Ager House

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Book Title</u>
Jan Etnier	<i>Craftsmen of Wisconsin</i> by Bertha Kitchell Whyte
Thomas Greenlee	<i>The Victorian Catalogue of Tools for Trade and Crafts</i> by Philip Walker
Edith Kling	<i>Painted Treasures: Projects and Inspiration from Today's Best Decorative Painters</i> , ed. A.B. Jones
	<i>Rosemaling for Anyone</i> by Lois Mueller
	<i>Lucky Strokes</i> by Lois Mueller
Joanne S. MacVey	<i>Rosemaling Heirlooms of Tomorrow</i>
Anne Marie Nelson	<i>Vilhelm Poulsen's Three Volumes – Fortaellinger of Norges Historie</i>
Lynne Ziehr	<i>Twelve Sets of Photograph and Rosemaling Patterns</i> By Joanne MacVey

## Gifts to the Ager House

Borgny Ager gave a glass serving plate to use for events at the Ager House.

Gary Mathis gave a VCR to replace the one at the Ager House that did not work anymore.

Irene Lamont gave a rosemaled wall panel in the old Rogaland Style. She painted it in a class given by Bergelot Lundes.

# How We Celebrated Syttende Mai!!!



Some Special Features:  
Trolls Elsie Jarvar and Don Etnier, Gary and Miriam Gandrud, Syttende Mai Brass Band, decorated cakes, colorful table settings and delicious hors de oeuvres.



# **AGER ASSOCIATION**

## **OPEN HOUSE AND KUBB FRIENDLY**

**SATURDAY JUNE 4TH**  
**1PM - 3PM**

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**TREATS**  
**TOURS**  
**KUBB**

**- COME AND CELEBRATE THE AGER ASSOCIATION AND KUBB -**

COME AND LEARN THE NORDIC GAME KUBB. NICKNAMED VIKING CHESS. NUMEROUS GAMES WILL BE SET UP ON THE FRONT LAWN. EAU CLAIRE HOSTS THE U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP (80 TEAMS THIS YEAR). EAU CLAIRE'S OWN 2010 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.

ALL AGES CAN PLAY. SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE. HOUSE WILL BE OPEN FOR TOURS.

LOCATION:  
AGER HOUSE - 514 W. MADISON ST.



**The Ager Association  
2011 Board of Directors**

**Officers**

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**A New Look at ...**

**AgerHouse.org**

By Ken Ziehr

Log on and check out the newly revised Ager Web Site at the familiar address, [www.agerhouse.org](http://www.agerhouse.org). The new site reformats and re-organizes material from the original site by new webmaster, Steve Loken, one of our newest members, who will also maintain and update the site.

Steve lives in Apple Valley, MN, a southern suburb of the Twin Cities. He grew up in Eau Claire, graduated from Memorial High School in 1959 and UW-Madison in 1964. After retiring from a career in data processing, Steve, interested in websites as a hobby, set up a few non-commercial sites, including one for his Memorial High School Class of 1959.

Steve learned about the Ager Association from Memorial classmate and Ager member, Carolyn Gabrielsen Barstad. After reading some articles at [agerhouse.org](http://agerhouse.org), he was impressed with the association, so, when asked by members of the Ager Board to work on the Agerhouse Website, Steve said, "I thought it would be fun to be associated with a group of people who saved an historical home, moved it to a new site, restored it, and continue to be dedicated to preserving it and the works of the man who lived there."

We are grateful to Beth Ager for creating the original website in 2002 and maintaining it since then. Beth's many hours of work gathering and preparing information on her great-grandfather, Waldemar Ager, his family and his work; the history of the Ager Association; and current activities of the Association has been a great service to the organization. We are also grateful to Tim Hirsch for his service in obtaining and maintaining the domain as well as providing current updates to the website in recent years. The many great articles contributed by Beth, Tim, and others will continue to be a part of the archival record in the reformatted website.

There is still much on the original website that Steve plans to incorporate into the new site as time permits. But his first priority is to provide members with current updates on Ager Association activities. In the future, an expanded website could provide the capability for receiving online donations, new membership applications, membership renewals, and access to the Ager Resource Library Catalog. Read the newsletter in COLOR online. Website questions may be directed to Steve at: [Bravo@SJLoken.com](mailto:Bravo@SJLoken.com).

## What was happening in Eau Claire in December 1923?

Excerpt from the newspaper *Reform* – 27 December 1923 – Translated by John Peterson

There is an evening school for immigrants who want to learn English at the high school, and there have been about 20-25 pupils with two teachers. They arranged a fine party Thursday evening as a “surprise” for the class and had refreshments and a program. It was very pleasant. Two thirds of the students are Norwegian newcomers.

One of the teachers is a Norwegian from North Dakota. Her name is Mrs. Harry Brown, and when she traveled home for a Christmas visit, she brought a gracious son-in-law along as a surprise for her parents, and in addition a Christmas present for them. Her maiden name was Cora Lunde. The other teacher for the newcomer class is Miss James.

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: **Volunteers are needed in the library to sort books** :  
: **and magazines. Contact Miriam Hansen, the Ager** :  
: **House librarian, at 715.835.6179 to help. Tusen takk.** :  
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**The Ager House  
514 West Madison St.  
P.O. Box 1472  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742**