

This Month's Articles

SCAN ME



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It's National...



Flower Day on March 21st!

The history of humans and flowers dates to the paleolithic age with the discovery of flower fossils. Flowers are included in myths and stories; the Ancient Greeks revered flowers and associated them with several Gods. The Egyptians adorned their homes with flowers placed inside vases. Floral silks were fashionable during the Tang dynasty rule in China. In 2002, a Rutgers University study concluded that men who received flowers had enhanced social connections and happiness.

Fun Tulip Facts:

1. Tulips are native to the Tien Shan mountains in Central Asia.
2. Holland's tulip industry came to a crash in 1637 when too many speculators sold the flowers at one time.
3. Tulips move with the sun's rays even when inside a vase.
4. They're edible and those who couldn't afford food during WWII ate tulips and tulip bread to survive.
5. Tulips continue growing even after you cut them.



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Estate Planning Buzz

Growing Your Estate Plan

My daughter loves flowers. She loves having them in her room and in vases throughout the house. Cut flowers are one thing, growing flowers is another thing. In addition to the attention required for plants, we also have lots of deer to contend with and despite our best efforts, our recent attempt at sunflowers was not successful. However, we have found success with peonies. And every year we look forward to seeing them bloom and sharing them with others.

Estate planning lends itself to the growing and giving flowers analogy. Estate plans just don't grow without proper care and attention. To have a successful plan with money or gifts that you want to share, you have to put in the time and effort.

National flower day reminds us to pause and enjoy nature's beauty and enjoy the flowers. It is also a reminder that spring is around the corner and with all the preparation for spring; outdoor cleaning, getting plant beds ready, we should take time to revisit our estate plans and see if anything additional is needed or if some weeding should occur.

To learn more contact us at (248) 409-0256 or info@ferrilawpllc.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Inside and Outside of the Courtroom

Flowers can help catch criminals

Plants are often studied for their medicinal purposes but they can also help catch killers and solve crimes; this branch of science is called forensic botany. Forensic botany includes the analysis of plant and fungal parts, plant environments and ecology and the goal is to link plant evidence with a crime. This evidence can then be used in court.

Pollen is microscopic and not usually obvious at a crime scene, but it can be retained on clothing, embedded in carpet and found in soil. Once, a man was arrested at the Texas-Mexico border with a truckful of ancient Native American artifacts. Dirt and pollen was collected from the artifacts to determine their origins. The pollen data matched samples from Mexico and determined that the artifacts were of Mexican origin and the person was importing illegal artifacts.

One of the earliest and most famous cases to use botanical evidence involved the kidnapping of Charles Lindbergh's son. In January 1935, Arthur Koehler testified at the trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the kidnapping of Charles and Anne Lindbergh's son. Dr. Koehler was an expert on wood anatomy and identification at the Forest Products Laboratory, United States Forest Service in Madison, Wisconsin. His testimony dealt with the structure of the wood of the ladder used by the kidnapper.

The defense argued against allowing Dr. Koehler to testify on the grounds that being an expert on wood is not a science recognized by the courts.

The judge disagreed and deemed him to be qualified as an expert. Dr. Koehler demonstrated that the wood of the ladder, beyond any doubt, linked Hauptmann to the crime since it was unique in design, homemade, and could be disassembled to fit in a car.

The ladder provided three kinds of information: the type of wood; the tools used to make it; and the structure of the wood. First, the ladder was made of Douglas fir, two types of pine, and birch. The top left rail had been used before, and the nail holes present were made by old-fashioned square-headed nails. Upon Koehler's findings, authorities found a missing board in connection with the suspect. Studying scarcely visible planer markings, Koehler traced some of the pine to its original mill source in South Carolina then forward to the National Lumber and Millwork Co. in the Bronx, NY which was ten blocks from Hauptmann's home.

After Hauptmann's arrest, the police discovered that one of the floor boards in his attic had been cut away. From there, Koehler was able to prove that the attic board and the ladder rail and one been a single board by the exact match of annual rings. The rings are unique so no other board would have the same pattern. This wood evidence was some of the most incriminating evidence that led to Hauptmann's conviction.

Tips for Your Estate Plan

Some simple steps to take:

1. Just as flowers need the right conditions to thrive (how much sun to plant them in, best soil type, do they grow better in a pot or in the ground, how much water do they need), consider your current circumstances and *jot down a list of your goals*. Depending on who and what you want to protect, certain planning techniques might work better for you than others.
2. As you age, different arrangements might make more sense. *Have a conversation with your loved ones* so they know what kinds of care or treatment you would like to receive, or if necessary what kind of facility you'd be willing to go to.
3. If you have an existing plan and it's been more than 3 years since you've created it, it might need weeding. *Review beneficiaries* to make sure no one new needs to be added and none need to be removed due to death, divorce or changed relationship.

Take A Break

Can you match the seed with the correct flower?



Sunflower



Poppy



Zinnia



Morning Glory



Forget Me Not



Daisy



Aster



Marigold

A



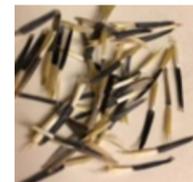
B



C



D



E



F



G



H

