



# Some Litter is Good, even on Earth Day

April brings Earth Day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> every year, and the week or two surrounding it abounds with earthy activities. Join in on some of those and leave your gardens alone a little longer! Those earthworms and ladybugs lurking in the leaf litter will thank you.

Brentwood resident Pat Fedkenheuer, the Plant Lady at the Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market, is sad to see anyone clearing out their gardens too early in the season. She encourages gardeners to be a little more patient, giving those ladybugs and other beneficial insects and critters which have been overwintering under the protection of the leaf litter a little more time to get ready for their important work in the growing season.

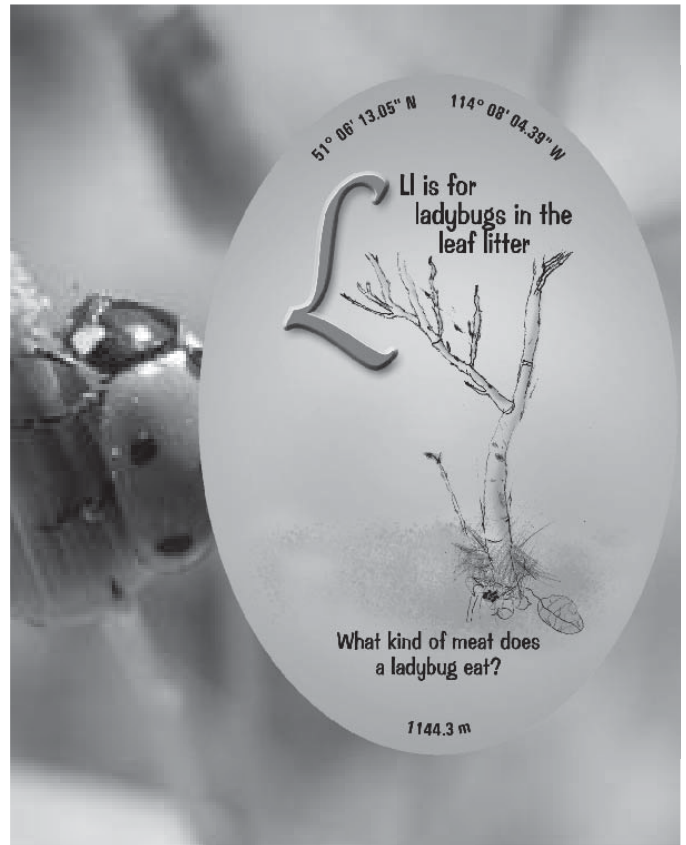
Check out Ladybugs in the Leaf Litter interpretive sign up by Dr. E.W. Coffin School. You can find its location either on the ground, or on the web at [www.nature-ground.org](http://www.nature-ground.org). Either way the coordinates are: 51° 06' 13.05" N, 114° 08' 04.39" W, 1144.3 m. Also note some recent updates on Natureground.org, including some YouTube videos!

At a recent gardening talk held at the Unitarian Church of Calgary, free to the public, Master Gardener Elaine Rude spoke about the challenges of urban agriculture in the Chinook Zone. However, she is enthusiastic about the possibilities of eating local from our own back yards and community gardens. See her great website for ideas, downloadable resources, photos, and a blog: <http://www.luv2garden.ca/>.

Don't forget about the Calgary Tower Climb and Run for the Wilderness kicking off Earth Week this year on April 17. Brentwoodians will be there again, including nonagenarians Louise and Richard Guy. My family and I will be there too, for our 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year climbing! Here is a brand new video to get you fired up about the climb: <http://www.youtube.com/user/AlbertaWilderness>. Our provincial spaces and species need your help to keep Alberta's magnificence in good shape.

Happy Climbing, and Happy Earth Day!

Environmentally yours, **Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett**, [environews@shaw.ca](mailto:environews@shaw.ca)



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