

4 March 2015

Seeking Soil Selfies for the IYS 2015



“How often do you celebrate your soil in shared photos?” asks Jeanie Clark.

“I’m guessing never! And I wondered if people could easily do this to participate in the International Year of Soils (IYS) 2015? ‘Soil Selfies’ is my answer to this, and for it, I need help this month from lots of people willing to take photos of their soil and share them.”

What is a ‘Soil Selfie’? It is a group of photos and comments about your soil. The full instructions are at <http://soils.enviroed4all.com.au/soil-selfies/> . This is a summary:

- 1 take photos which show
 - 1 close-up detail of your soil,
 - 2 a use you make of it
 - 3 a challenge or management method you have in using it.
- 2 write comments to support this, including if you have a link to a webpage with more about your use of soil
- 3 send it to enviroed4all@gmail.com with the tag “Soil Selfies”, choosing if you want your name shown with it or not.
- 4 It will become part of on-line collection of ‘Soil Selfies’ at the above website.

Who can contribute? Anyone with soil at their place! ☺ I guess that’s almost everyone!
Please don’t think your soil/use is so unimportant that it doesn’t deserve its own photo!

When are they needed? Soil Selfies are needed in March, so that the website and displays can be created in early April, ready for use in mid-April for Global Soils Week (GSW)

Why make a collection of Soil Selfies?

- ☼ In looking for resources on-line useful for schools for soils education, Jeanie couldn’t find a collection of such first hand information
- ☼ Once on the web, it will be available to schools anywhere to use.
- ☼ It promotes the areas which contribute – for GSW, subsets will be available for local displays by anyone interested - and with money to print photos with space to display them!
- ☼ It has been taken up by the Global Soils Week as one of 12 visual displays at the collaborative and participatory processes at the Global Soils Forum in Berlin. There ‘Soil Selfies’ will provide participants with a ‘voice’ into high level global discussions especially on the Challenges and Management methods.

What will they cost? Half an hour to an hour of your time to set one up and email it



**Global
Soil Week**
Soil. The Substance
of Transformation.

How does it fit with the GSW theme “Soil – the substance of Transformation” ? Soil Selfies show the substance (your soil close-up) and something it is transformed into (its use) and an issue to do with how this transformation takes place (challenge or management method)

. “Hopefully this will also enable people to connect with this week from the grass-roots up when they think of their soils like this,” Jeanie said.

“Soils are so important to life, but may not be noticed much, so ‘Soil Selfies’ is a volunteer on-line project that anyone can contribute to from anywhere,” Jeanie said. “I couldn’t believe it when I was invited to present it in Berlin, making it bigger in scope than my original idea. I am very grateful to the Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies for providing funds for me to come to Berlin for the GSW 2015 and so excited to be able take ‘Soil Selfies’ there, even though it isn’t created yet! So I hope people will be inspired by this project and quickly provide me with heaps of ‘Soil Selfies’ to create an amazing website, and displays from it, both in Berlin and local ones where there is interest.”

Who is Jeanie? Jeanie lives on a small Wimmera family farm, raising sheep. She was a Geography teacher, then Waterwatch educator, and is now a freelance environmental educator. She specializes in creating farm and rural based education sessions and resources, especially bringing International Years and the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity (2011-2020) at a community/school level. She creates and provides (unfunded) resources on her enviroed4all@skymesh.com.au websites and seeks funding for costs of activity sessions to schools or community groups.

Part of a Soil Selfie group of photos:

“Zucchini grown in clay based soil with lots of compost on family farm garden patch”



photo Jeanie Clark, Warracknabeal, (cc) 2015

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