



JERE MELO FOUNDATION

Newsletter August 2019

Take Back Our Forests

Jere Melo Volunteer Awards 2018

The Jere Melo Foundation was proud to host the fifth annual Jere Melo Volunteer Awards Dinner and Silent Auction in August 2018. This award is given to a local volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their efforts to give back to the community.

Co-winners of the 2018 Jere Melo Volunteer of the Year award are Mike Beck (second from left in the very back) and Susan Collins (fourth from left in the front), here with other nominees and board members of the Jere Melo Foundation.

Beck was recognized for his tireless work cleaning roadsides all over coastal Mendocino County. Collins was recognized for her work with Native Daughters of the Golden West, Mendocino Coast District Hospital Auxiliary, Gloriana Theater and many other local organizations. Nominees Julie Whipple, Nancy Bennett and Susan Fraser (second, third and fifth from left in the front) were also honored. Nominee Terrie Curti was volunteering at a Cubs football game and couldn't make it. Congratulations and thank you to all.



Youth Award 2018

In November, 2018, Fort Bragg High School student Analiese Keaton was named the Jere Melo Foundation Youth Volunteer of the Year at the halftime of a Fort Bragg High School Timberwolves football game. Keaton, along with fellow nominees Athena Anderson, Clay Anderson and Claire Kisliuk, was recognized for her service in many organizations and activities, including Fort Bragg Shoreline Riders, the Mendocino Coast Humane Society, Fort Bragg High soccer, the Teen Peer Court and two years as a member of the Fort Bragg Police Department Cadet Program.



Athena Anderson was nominated for her work as a youth sports coach and referee and work on the Fort Bragg High School student council. She also travelled to Otsuchi, Japan as part of Fort Bragg's Sister Cities Program. Clay Anderson has also worked as a youth sports coach and referee, received the coaches award for his play on the Fort Bragg High School basketball team.

Claire Kisliuk is a member of the Fort Bragg High Interact Club, the Fort Bragg Lions Leos Club and the FBHS track team. She was also the winner of the Violet Richardson Award given by Soroptimist International of Fort Bragg for her volunteer work.



Jere Melo Dinner Speaker Sheriff William Honsal

Sheriff William “Billy” Honsal was appointed unanimously by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on April 4, 2017. Sheriff Honsal was sworn into office on May 6, 2017, to fulfill the remainder of Sheriff’s Mike Downey’s term of office. Sheriff Honsal ran for the office and was elected Sheriff in 2018. During his time at the Sheriff’s office, Sheriff Honsal mission is to deliver community minded law enforcement services that stresses protection, order, ethics and respect to the citizens of Humboldt County.

Sheriff Honsal was one of three kids raised by his Father William and mother Kathleen Honsal in Eureka CA with strong family values. His father, William F. Honsal II, worked with the Eureka Police Department for 31 years and retired in 2001 as a Patrol Operations Captain. His mother, Kathleen Honsal, was an educator and spent years teaching before moving into school administration. Sheriff Honsal resides in Fortuna California with his wife of 23 years, Jody Honsal, and their 4 children, Will (18), Jack (16), and Case (12), Josie (3). Sheriff Honsal and his wife Jody are foster parents and have been fostering Humboldt County children since 2016. Sheriff Honsal has a Bachelor of Science Degree from CSU Long Beach, AA degree from College of the Redwoods, and holds a POST executive certificate. Sheriff Honsal is an avid runner and member of Humboldt CrossFit. He has been a soccer Coach for the Eel River Valley Youth Soccer League for 6 years. Sheriff Honsal is active member in the Southwest Eureka Rotary Club and serves as Board

Member for the Redwood Teen Challenge organization.

Sheriff Honsal started his Law Enforcement career in 1995 as an officer with the city of Madera Police Department. In 1996 he was hired as a Public Safety Officer for the city of Sunnyvale. In that capacity he was trained in police, fire, and EMS. In 2004, he made the family decision to move back to Humboldt County to raise their children in the clean air and beautiful country that Northern California offers. He worked for the Eureka Police Department as an officer, the Humboldt County District Attorney as a Felony Crimes Investigator, and Humboldt State University Police as a Sergeant and a Lieutenant. In 2013, Sheriff Mike Downey hired William Honsal as his Undersheriff. He was selected to bring an outside perspective to the Sheriff’s office. From 2013, the Sheriff’s office has established many new programs and restored some key positions with the department during difficult budget times.



Throughout his 24-year career he has had a variety of assignments including Patrol Operations, Fire Operations, Field Training Officer, H&K / Colt Armorer, SWAT Team Leader, bike patrol, Child Abuse / Homicide investigator, Gang Task Force, and Recruit Training Officer at the Alameda

County Regional Training Center. Sheriff Honsal has received several citations and awards for exemplary conduct. He was selected as Crime Stopper of the year and was also given the Life Saving Award. Sheriff Honsal was also a member of the Sunnyvale SWAT Completion Team who won the Santa Clara Sheriff’s Office Best in the West SWAT competition three years (2000, 2001, and 2003.)

As Sheriff, he has numerous responsibilities which include the Patrol Operations, Criminal Investigations Division, The Office of Emergency Services, Drug Task Force, Marijuana Enforcement Team, OHV program, Boating Safety Division, Livestock, Civil/Court Security Services, Search &

Rescue Team, SWAT Team, Emergency Ordinance Disposal (Bomb Team), the Records and Civil Division, 417 bed Type II jail facility, Sheriff's Work Alternative Program, Coroner's office, Airport Security, Animal Control, Sheriff Citizen's on Patrol, Neighborhood Watch, and Contracts for police services with the Cities of Trinidad, Blue Lake, and the College of the Redwoods.

Sheriff Honsal understands the struggle that law enforcement faces on the North coast. The Humboldt County Sheriff's office covers 4000 miles of the rugged North Coast of California for a county wide population of 135,000 citizens. Humboldt County has an escalating violent crime rate, mentally illness and homelessness are on the rise, and drug abuse is rampant. Sheriff Honsal has been aggressively pursuing illegal marijuana cultivators throughout the County. He has taken a multidisciplinary approach to ensure the violators of the law are hit with every environmental, fish and wildlife, water code, code enforcement, hazardous waste, criminal, and civil law possible. As Sheriff he is forging ahead using innovation and continued partnerships with public safety agencies, businesses and citizens to combat these social and crime issues. His top priorities are putting service back in public service, maintaining the public trust in Law Enforcement and bringing back a sense of Community to the North coast.



Jere Melo Foundation Educates The Public About Trespass Marijuana Grows At The Sierra Cascade & Redwood Region Logging Conferences

In February and March this year, JMF Board Members Dick Royat, Linda Royat, and Madeleine Melo once again attended both the 2019 Sierra Cascade and Redwood Region Logging Conferences.



Hundreds of people attended the conference including loggers, school children, and members of the public.'

Our booth staff reported that many individuals and groups came by the JMF booth to become educated on the dangers and environmental impacts associated with trespass grows.

The booth has a large screen television with a looping video showing photographs of these hazards as well as handouts for further information.



The Foundation purchased new banners this year which will be much easier to carry and display and feature a picture of Jere.

Madeleine Melo - August 2019

"A DARK REALITY".

"THE BLUNT TRUTH"



GROWING AND PRODUCTION OF MARIJUANA AND MARIJUANA PRODUCTS CONTINUE ON A RAMPANT SCALE TO DO ENVIROMENTAL DAMAGE

The legalization of recreation marijuana (MJ) was passed in California in 2016. Since then the fact is that things are worse

As state after state grapple with legalizing the use of THC and CBD, the situation has grown more murky and the swamp seems to be this ever growing sludge of misinformation, outright lies and the desires of money hungry opportunists, who care nothing for the well-being of their fellow humans and the state of the environment. As laws and regulations are put in place, enforcing those laws and regulations has grown into a monstrous spider web of confusion, misunderstanding, and a steep learning curve that no one can seem to grasp.

I have been doing research on the environmental damage caused by the growth and production of marijuana since 2011. In this last year 2018-2019 I have read 100s if not 1000s of articles about the production of marijuana (and now hemp) both pro and con. Hemp has been added into the confusion since the Hemp Farming Act of 2018 legalizing hemp federally. “Some states still consider it (hemp) illegal to grow, but 41 states have begun the process of making hemp legal to grow at the state level, as of 2019”ⁱ “Although [cannabis as a drug](#) and industrial hemp both derive from the species *Cannabis sativa* and contain the [psychoactive](#) component [tetrahydrocannabinol](#) (THC), they are distinct [strains](#) with unique [phytochemical](#) compositions and uses. Hemp has lower concentrations of THC and higher concentrations of [cannabidiol](#) (CBD), which decreases or eliminates its psychoactive effects. The [legality of industrial hemp](#) varies widely between countries. Some governments regulate the concentration of THC and permit only hemp that is bred with an especially low THC content.”ⁱⁱ

The Hemp Farming Act of 2018 law removed [hemp \(defined as cannabis with less than 0.3% THC\)](#) from Schedule I controlled substances and making it an ordinary agricultural commodity. It is believed that most CBD oil found in states that have not yet allowed recreational or medical marijuana, sell CBD oil manufactured from hemp. (to date I have found no confirming information that is true)

Headlines of various articles trying to explain the situation

1. Operation Clean Sweep – Summary.

This press release from the Mendocino County (CA) Sheriff’s office is a picture of environmental damage from not necessarily trespass grows, but from non-licensed, illegal growing of marijuana. This kind of information of environmental damage from current growing operations is a recurring theme in all the articles I read about marijuana production and the environment, not only in California but around the country.

DATE: July 23, 2019 Crime/Incident: Operation Clean Sweep – Summary

Location: Eel River watershed in Mendocino County

Date of Incident: 07-15-2019

Time: 8:00AM

Written By: Captain Gregory L. Van Patten #1184
On 07-19-2019 Operation Clean Sweep concluded in Mendocino County and a debrief was conducted which developed the following information about the operation:

Search Warrants served: 28

Locations of Search Warrants: Covelo (Round Valley), Dos Rios, Woodman Creek (Laytonville), Iron Peak Road/Simmerly Road (Laytonville).
Marijuana/Cannabis plants removed: 42,638
Independent acts of Environment based Crime(s) observed: 603

MM - (603!!!!-how is that damage to be mitigated)

Independent acts impacting Water Quality: 142
Independent acts impacting Water Rights: 197
California Department of Fish & Wildlife violations observed: 264

Observed acts of Environmental Degradation:
Water/Stream Diversion, Water Pollution from trash, pesticides and generator fuel, Illegal Grading of land to include the unnatural damming of watersheds (streams/rivers/springs).

Significant Wildlife Impact(s): Foothill Yellow Legged Frog was observed in a stream that was impacted by an act of Illegal damming and water diversion. In June 2017 the California Fish and Game Commission voted to make the Foothill Yellow Legged Frog a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act.

2. **Side effect of marijuana legalization in the U.S.: In many cases it has fueled, rather than eliminated, the black market.** ⁱⁱⁱ (*Black Market MJ is most probably not grown in legal grow sites*)

3. **CBD-infused food and beverages are still illegal under US law. So why are they everywhere?**

In 33 states and D.C., medical marijuana is legal. In 10 of those states (plus D.C.) recreational marijuana is legal. The Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act prohibits adding even approved drugs to human or animal food in interstate commerce.^{iv}

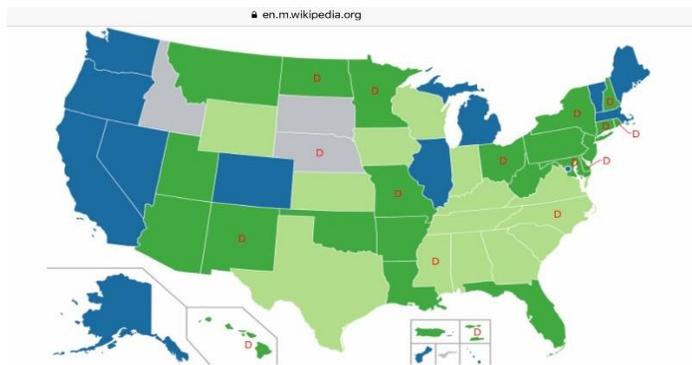
4. **Williamson County to temporarily stop marijuana arrests (Texas)**

Many Texas prosecutors are struggling with how to handle possession of marijuana cases now that legislators legalized the production and regulation of hemp. By defining hemp in the law as a part of the cannabis plant containing .3 percent or less of THC, district and county attorneys feel they must test a substance to prove it is illegal marijuana. Without a lab currently capable of doing that, several prosecutors have chosen to drop marijuana cases.^{vi}

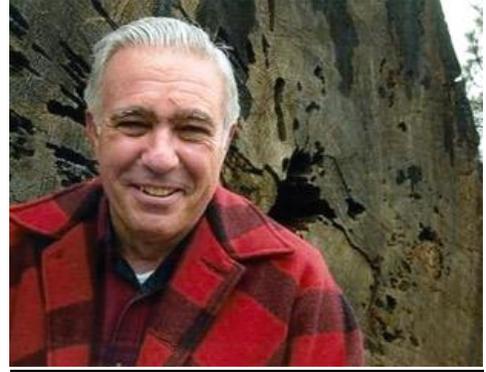
5. **Ca. Bureau of Cannabis Control pot regulators struggle with job**

A shortage of staff in the enforcement unit is hindering the agency's ability to conduct investigations.ⁱ

Wikipedia **States that have legalized Medical MJ and Recreation MJ**



Reminder of why we are here:



What is done is done. We cannot go back. We cannot go back to August 10th, before a hard-working land manager, Matt Coleman was brutally murdered and then 17 days later Jere Melo met that same fate. We can only ask ourselves can my actions prevent this from ever happening again. Turning a blind eye and doing nothing is part of the problem. The growing of illegal marijuana on forestlands led a drug-crazed monster to put a bullet in Jere Melo's back.

Since 2012, I have felt no one else should be killed over marijuana; it doesn't matter if it's a grower or a law enforcement person. Since 2016 new laws are in place to prevent environmental damage, unfortunately not all growers are heading those regulations. We need continued awareness in the ongoing efforts for a clean and healthy environment and that's what Jere tried so hard to do. I asked Jere why he does what he does, knowing that it's dangerous and he said;

"Because somebody has too".



That's why we're doing this, because somebody has to.

We have these goals; nobody dies because of marijuana and to eliminate trespass grows and illegal growing and illegal production of marijuana products through public awareness

The Jere Melo Foundation doesn't have a magic solution. We just want the public to be aware of the dangers. There are some things that we want you to consider, especially during the summer and early fall, when the harvesting happens.

If you see something out of place in the woods, like black irrigation piping:

1. Stop
2. Leave the area immediately
3. Notify the local Sheriff's department or call 911

- Visit our website at www.jeremelofoundation.org
- Write to your elected officials
- Support the need for more law enforcement
- Support the identification of illegal grows
- Support cleanup activities
- Be careful and be alert especially in July, August and early September.

The Jere Melo Foundation does not take a stand on the pros and cons about the merits of medical marijuana.

But please, think about it – are they growing medical marijuana in unregulated, illegal grows?

If you need medical marijuana, are you concerned about where that medicine may come from?

We have a system for the production and distribution of medicines in this country, that makes sure medicines are produced to provide the safest product to patients for the appropriate relief of symptoms, but medical marijuana, currently is not produced and delivered by that system.

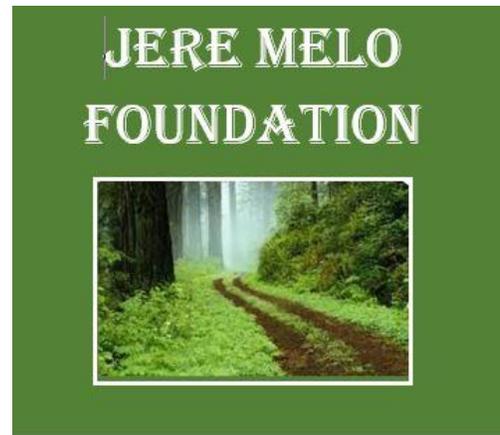
Do you know where your medicine comes from?

Could it be laced with insecticides or pesticides, even rat poison?

Madeline Melo

August 2019

- "State Industrial Hemp Statutes". ncsf.org. Retrieved 25 April 2019.*
- Law and Order by Natalie Fertig July 21, 2019
- <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/07/21/legal-marijuana-black-market-227414>
- <https://www.chicagotribune.com/marijuana/sns-cbd-infused-food-still-illegal-20190724-yp3d7n3fpjd2zb4eyczwoepnla-story.html>
- <http://www.fox7austin.com/news/local-news/williamson-county-to-temporarily-stop-marijuana-arrests>
- <https://www.kcra.com/article/california-pot-regulators-struggling-job-audit/28428137>



**Take Back
Our Forests**



JERE MELO FOUNDATION

PO Box 118, FORT BRAGG CA 95437

WWW.JEREMELOFOUNDATION@GMAIL.COM