



JERE MELO FOUNDATION

Newsletter August 2018

Take Back Our Forests

Site Clean-Up Project

On August 18th, 2018, a team of Jere Melo Foundation Board members spent a day cleaning up a trespass marijuana



Jere Melo Foundation Board members John Andersen, Linda Royat, Heather Morrison, Dick Royat, Sarah Bushnell & Ryan Bushnell



site on Mendocino Redwood Company's private property. A trailer load of plastic piping, grow site structures, barrels, ladders and other

garbage was removed from the site abandoned by growers. As well as the pollution of the items left behind, water had been diverted from the local streams and evidence of use of harmful chemicals was found.



Message from Madeleine Melo

It is now seven years since the monstrous murder of Jere Melo. My sorrow has not diminished and my resolve to warrior on has increased. In those seven years I have learned that mental health issues are the sympathetic feel good excuses for many marijuana related (and in truth other drugs) caused crimes. The argument now stands at was it "the chicken or the egg?" Does "marijuana" use increase the incidents of mental illness or are the users that are already mental ill tipped over the edge by its use. There is plenty of evidence that the increase of use of marijuana coincides with mental illness.



Madeleine Melo

Jere Melo Dinner Speaker Ed Shemelya

Ed Shemelya is the National Coordinator for HIDTA's National Marijuana Initiative, a position he assumed when he retired after 30 years of service with the Kentucky State Police. Prior to his retirement, he served as the Eastern Region Marijuana Coordinator for the Appalachia HIDTA and was responsible for monitoring marijuana cultivation and related activities within the four-state region of the Appalachia HIDTA.



Mr. Shemelya began his law enforcement career in 1979, when he began working patrol, general investigations, and narcotics at the Pikeville Post of the KSP. Promoted to sergeant in 1985, and then lieutenant in 1988, he served the agency in several capacities, including Internal Affairs, Research and Development, and commander of the KSP's first full-time Special Response Team. In 2003, he was appointed Commander of the Governor's Marijuana Strike Force and the Kentucky Eradication Initiative. This multi-agency task force was charged with fighting Kentucky's outdoor and indoor marijuana cultivators. During Mr. Shemelya's six years as commander of the Kentucky Eradication Task Force, the Office of National Drug Control Policy recognized the KETF as the most outstanding eradication task force in the nation for four consecutive years.

Jere Melo Foundation Educates The Public About Trespass Marijuana Grows At The Sierra Cascade Logging Conference

In February of this year, JMF Board Members Dick Royat, Linda Royat, and Madeleine Melo once again attended the 2018 Sierra Cascade Logging Conference. Hundreds of people attended the



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

Dick and Linda report 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.



JMF Board members, Linda Royat and Madeleine Melo manning the booth at Sierra Cascade Logging Conference 2018

Newsletter article- Madeleine Melo August 2018

"Even though you cannot see the victory, you must stay in the fight until those not involved come to their senses"- Winston Churchill

The Jere Melo Foundation has worked to put a spot light on the environmental degradation caused by many marijuana growers. The new law in California has many provisions to regulate how and where marijuana can be grown. The slow rolling out of those regulations and the ongoing black-market has not deterred that environmental disaster.

In 2018 the Foundation continues its work: Presented educational material to:

- February - Sierra Cascade Logging Show in Anderson, CA
- March –Redwood Regional Logging Conference, Ukiah, CA
- April- Oregon Marijuana Summit- Welches, OR
- July- Attended the Premier of Chronic State- Boise ID

Networking with organizations that recognize the disastrous consequences of marijuana cultivation



- Silent Poison- we have copies of their excellent paper- “Cultivating disaster” about marijuana grows in Calaveras County, CA. or you can go to Silent Poison to read on line.
- MOMS Strong- “They say marijuana doesn’t kill anyone. We wish that was true you can go to their website MomsStrong.org to see stories and interviews of the negative impact of marijuana on their lives.
- SAM- Smart Approaches to Marijuana-

In April another Board Member and I spent 1-1/2 days with about 50 people from all over the country that focus on the issues around marijuana. The Jere Melo Foundation was the only organization there that concentrates on the environmental issues of cultivating marijuana, most attendees are there for issues of law enforcement, regulation, policies and the many issues caused using Marijuana.

The Jere Melo Foundation was recognized many times for our work in environmental damage. The lawyers sought out Paul and /or I over comments we made about prosecutions regarding water issues and use; and California Water Quality rules being an avenue for prosecution. Paul was asked many questions about reclamation and restitution. We were asked about monies and cost for cleanup, reclamation and restitution, most surprised to find few funds available and the confiscation of property and money were not paying for those efforts.

Many have no idea how the product gets from seed to a pot shop near you. One realization for me is that we need to do more about identifying and education

people about the mold, pesticides, insecticide and fertilizer residue left on the product.

In July I had the opportunity to attend the premier of the of documentary ‘Chronic State’. “Chronic State was produced by DrugFree Idaho to educate Idaho citizens about the impacts of marijuana normalization. In visiting 4 surrounding states that have chosen to normalize marijuana by legalizing its use, this film documents. ...Impacts...from a variety of sectors within these impacted communities” You can view this video by going to DrugFree Idaho and click on the “Chronic State” The film graphically depicts the impacts to the State of Colorado since legalization. It did include the environmental impacts and featured Mourad Gabriel and the important research he has done to add science to the devastation. This film led me to see this disaster with all the various “bubbles” of disaster: Environmental (list of environmental violations at end), crime, guns and violence, Increase in use by youth and resulting consequences, mental health issues, health issues, inability to enforce regulations or laws (lack of money-lack of resources), homicides and suicide, and increase numbers of DUI.



Think “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on” -Winston Churchill (guess I am wrong in thinking the lie that “marijuana is medicine and a harmless herb” is the biggest lie ever propagated on an unprepared population, but it is certainly a whopper)

A lie that really got to me- In the mid-1980s it was known that marijuana and other drugs harmed unborn babies. I spent my entire midwifery career counseling against its use.

It was “recently reported that As recently reported, [over 70% percent of marijuana dispensaries in Colorado](#) were found to be recommending high-potency THC products to mothers as a remedy for symptoms of morning sickness. According to the Centers for Disease Control, [marijuana use during](#)

[pregnancy could result](#) in low birth weight and other developmental issues in the womb.

All those poor babies and mothers!!!

Jere Melo Volunteer Awards

The Jere Melo Foundation was proud to host the fourth annual Jere Melo Volunteer Awards Dinner and Silent Auction in August 2017. This award is given to a local volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their efforts to give back to the community.

Our winner this year was Nancy Housel. Nancy had been nominated by several people for her work in various areas. Nancy moved to Fort Bragg in 2012 and began working with Project Sanctuary. She trained as a crisis counselor and volunteered her time taking calls, acting as a witness in abusive cases and as a trainer of new staff and volunteers. Nancy also puts in many hours at the Mendocino Coast Botanical gardens particularly in the veggie garden and is also known for her regular delivery trips to the food bank. Thank you, Nancy, for all your hard work in our community – we are honored to have met you and heard your story.



for her general spirit of community in her daily activities. *Due to poor weather conditions during the presentation, we do not have a photograph of Maria receiving her award.*



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Youth Award

In November, 2018, Fort Bragg High School Junior Maria Ramirez was awarded the youth award for her volunteer efforts with the police cadet program and