

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to relay information from the November 4, 2017 FOCA fall seminar (ca 120 attendees). It was an excellent event this year.

A. The morning session began with an **overview of FOCA updates** from Terry Rees (Executive Director).

B. The keynote speakers were the **Water Brothers (Alex & Tyler Mifflin)**. The two have a program on TVO. Their presentation was great with video clips from some of their shows (invasive species). The presentation was extremely popular. I agreed, but thought that more information could have been relayed about inland waters.

C. **Action First Aid (1-866-347-7824)** is a new FOCA Sponsor. The representatives gave a short, but helpful demonstration of the **Philips Home Defibrillator (\$1495)** that includes a \$100 discount for FOCA cottage association members. This might be something that cottagers on Big Gull Lake may be interested in purchasing.

D. There was a useful **breakout session** with each table discussing **“Finding & Engaging New Member and Younger Volunteers.”** Each table was given specific questions to address on this theme. Responses were submitted to the FOCA staff at the end of the discussion.

Our table had a great group from the Belmont Lake Association. One participant, Kathryn Deas (I’m guessing late 20s) ran the lake association Facebook Page. Initially, the Facebook page focused on “lost and found” items, but all sorts of information and photos are posted. There are often over 1000 hits on a given theme. I think that Kathryn Erickson was going to start a Facebook page for Big Gull. Kathryn Deas relayed that she would be happy to help with ideas that have worked well ([katsdeas@gmail.com](mailto:katsdeas@gmail.com)).

The advantage of having the breakout session just before lunch was that everyone was keen to continue the discussion over the lunch period. Terry Rees briefly summarized responses in the afternoon. A detailed summary will be provided later.

E. At 1:30, Francis Wilbur, led a panel question and answer session about **Youth & Volunteer Engagement**. **Panel members** were:

1. Jacob Rodenburg (Executive Director of Camp Kawartha and co-author of **“The Big Book of Nature Activities,”** The book has activities useful for children from 4 to 12 years old. Keith Rowe may be interested in getting the book.

2. Thomas McAuley-Biasi, Chair of Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity.

3. Mike Hendren, Executive Director of Kawartha Land Trust, a non-profit organization. His most helpful hint was to give adult “youth” (under 35 y) a single

task with a specific start and finish. Do not expect them to be willing to serve on committees!

F Launch of **FOCA's 2017 video project**, "Lake Associations" a short video (5 to 6 minutes) prepared by videographer **Chelsie Xaavier-Blower**, Graduate Student of Fleming College's Environmental Visual Communications (EVC) Program. **Dave Ireland** (Managing Director Centre of Discovery in Biodiversity, Royal Ontario Museum & cofounder of the EVC program) explained the objective of the program to link science and art. The video, Chelsie's student project, was well done and will soon be posted on the FOCA website.

**Lastly**, I was able to obtain an **Invasive Species Boat sign** urging boaters to check their boat for invasive species. The boat sign was part of the OMNRF sponsored project to stop invaders. I will bring the sign up to the cottage with me when I come to the lake in June. I'm guessing that the board may wish to post the sign at the boat launch at the east end of the lake.

Have a great winter.  
See you on the lake in 2018.

Lynda