

Darla Letourneau (right) was honored for her work with BikeWalkLee at the Florida Bicycle Association's ProBike/ProWalk conference in Lakeland May 12. FBA program director and conference organizer Dan Moser (left, also a BWL steering group member) presented the award.

Sanibel advocate honored by state bicycling organization

Darla Letourneau of Sanibel has been honored as an outstanding citizen bike advocate by the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) at its annual awards ceremony during the recent ProBike/ProWalk conference in Lakeland, FL. Letourneau was singled out for her efforts on behalf of BikeWalkLee in Lee County.

"Letourneau has dedicated countless hours conducting research and developing policy statements," said Dan Moser, the conference organizer and FBA's program director, "not to mention attending many, many meetings and staying in contact with elected officials and staffers in order to improve the bike/pedestrian environment. The work she does impacts not only Lee County but all of Florida, and even places beyond our state.

"Darla's background as a long-time federal employee who worked with a variety of policy matters, as well as her love of cycling, makes her a an outstanding Citizen Bike Advocate," said Moser. Letourneau is a member of FBA and the Sanibel Bike Club, and serves on BikeWalkLee's steering committee.

"It was truly an honor to receive this award," said Letourneau, "but the recognition really goes to the whole outstanding BikeWalkLee steering group team, to our community partner organizations, and to our elected officials who have responded by adopting policies and programs that put Lee County on the

path towards the vision of a network of complete streets and more livable communities. It's exciting that, in its first year of existence, BikeWalkLee's efforts have been recognized at the statewide level."

BikeWalkLee is a community coalition raising public awareness and advocating for complete streets in Lee County — streets that are designed, built, operated and maintained for safe and convenient travel for all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. For more information, visit www.BikeWalkLee.org.

The FBA annual awards are presented to worthy recipients for their contributions to bicycling, to bring attention to the efforts and achievements of groups, organizations and individuals that help deliver the FBA's mission to inspire and support people and communities to enjoy greater freedom and well being through bicycling.

FBA envisions a state where people of all ages see bicycling as a normal, practical and safe transportation alternative and where drivers of motor vehicles respect and appreciate the presence of bicycles on the roadways. FBA is supported by membership dues and grants for safety education and both bicyclist and motor vehicle driver awareness programs. Find out more online at www.floridabicycle.org.