

# Treatment-Free Beekeeping Convention Speakers

## Biography/Info for

Dean Stiglitz & Laurie Herboldsheimer

Dean and Laurie (aka Ramona) are treatment-free beekeepers from Massachusetts. They manage bees in Massachusetts and Maine, breed queens and plan to have treatment-free nucs for sale next year. They own Golden Rule Honey, which packs and markets treatment-free honey and their line of chocolate, The Queen of Chocolate, sweetened only with treatment-free honey. Laurie and Dean are also board members of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association and are the organizers of the annual Northeast Treatment Free Beekeeping Conference held in Leominster, Massachusetts.

Laurie and Dean are the authors of **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping** (released May 4, 2010, by Penguin) which is written from the treatment-free perspective. They have spoken around the country (Arizona, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts and Nebraska) on treatment-free beekeeping and the importance of microbial cultures to the well-being of the bees.

At the Florida State Beekeeping Convention, Dean plans to speak on treatment-free beekeeping.

- Points to be covered include:
- What is treatment-free beekeeping?

- Advantages, disadvantages and barriers to treatment-free beekeeping
- Treatment-free beekeeping techniques (both good and bad)
- A treatment-free beekeepers perspective on the Florida honey standards (subtitle: "Why I Wish We Lived in Florida").

Laurie plans to discuss the relationships between honeybees and microbes. Included will be her and Dean's adventures discovering the importance of microbial cultures to bees, the nature of those relationships, a kitchen-table experiment looking at formic acid and microbes, research on the relationships between honeybees and microbes (both past and current) and what we as beekeepers can do to encourage healthy microbial cultures in our hives.

**Reviews of The Complete Idiot's guide to Beekeeping from Amazon.com:**

**Kirk Webster:**

*"When we learn to live by creating a better world rather than using up the one we have, keeping bees without treatments will be easy. Until that time, methods like those that Dean and Laurie describe are necessary, and worth every bit of struggle. It's the best way."*

**Michael Bush:**

*"I've known Dean and Laurie for a while. I've heard them speak. I've read their posts on bee forums. So I had*

*high expectations. They were exceeded. Something as complex as bees and beekeeping is very difficult to explain to a complete neophyte as the complexity and interrelatedness of everything makes it difficult to know where to start. I really didn't think anyone could write something so basic and still cover the essentials, but I think they have succeeded beyond any of the hundreds of beginning beekeeping books I've read over the years. Thanks Dean and Laurie for writing this. Now I know where to send a beginner for a book."*

**Eric Knutzen:**

*"What's great about this book is that it explains small cell, foundationless, no treatment beekeeping for beginners. It's the first book, that I'm aware of, to do so. I know from experience that these methods work well. I've also found these natural methods to be a lot less labor intensive than conventional beekeeping. A great book for beginners or for beekeepers thinking of switching over to natural methods."*

**Adam Schreiber:**

*"As a relatively new beekeeper interested in natural beekeeping methods I have been searching for a book like this for 2 years. The book is easy to read, very well written and best of all, it contains information that no other book on beekeeping contains. The concise information on small-cell beekeeping, unlimited broodnest, the importance of the microbial*

*environment of the hive, and the general approach of treatment free management methods is all a breath of fresh air in a genre of books that usually advocates for unnecessarily micro-managing our hives and also dumping all kinds of unhealthy chemicals into our hives.*

*I congratulate the authors on writing a book that I will undoubtedly refer to over and over again as I continue to learn more about bees and beekeeping. I highly recommend this book - especially if you are just getting started with bees."*

**Roger Weld:**

*"The one to get..... if you are only getting one book on beekeeping. The book heavily emphasizes sustainable beekeeping practices which is what I am interested in. My only complaint is wanting to see more photos of basics. Perhaps in the next edition... :)"*