

## Waldorf 100 and Bee Culture in Belgium 2019

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Waldorf 100 is as much about looking back at the impressive achievements of the world wide Waldorf movement over the past decade as it is about the next 100 years and how to work with the current global and individual challenges and opportunities. In our context focused on honey bee culture, ecology and husbandry.

Our methodology is based on constant re-vision and re-creation of the content, combined with process leading from living images of bee-biology and ecology to imaginative and social dynamic exercises to add experiential depth to the conceptual aspect of the content. Thus teaching about bees first and relating to them with head and heart.

An example is swarm biology where the old queen and most workers leave the hive in spring, first flying towards the sun but then feeling the influence of the weight of the earth they come to rest on a branch. From there the scouts explore the vicinity looking for a cavity that would allow the swarm to re-embody into a new full colony. Whilst in the old hive young queens emerge and more after-swarms may go off and the colony might even swarm itself to death leaving the cavity and comb to an uncertain future. But sometimes a swarm from elsewhere might discover the abandoned home and move in, or one of the last of the virgin queens that emerges - after killing her remaining queen sisters – will stay and grow a new full colony with the newly emerging bees.

In ancient times when in some places colonies were imagined to emerge from rotting corpses of dead oxen, and in other places bee mysteries saw the initial swarming as an image of death and most likely swarms moving into hives as processes of (re-) incarnation. With the complete image given by modern biology we can also ask ourselves what the processes in the remaining hives described above signify in the imaginative realm.

In our methodology we then move on to aspects of bee-culture (including hive designs) in the same way as described above in order to allow the will impulses to emerge – initially as seeds for the future. Possibilities for schools and individuals to engage in some practical way with bee ecology, culture or husbandry reveal themselves. Our approach is thus not based on any given outcome or goal but on processes to help reveal what lives in the specific context of a place, organisation and the people in it. We would be very happy to help nourish and care for the seeds thus planted but this is mainly down to individuals and groups of individuals taking initiative and responsibility locally and we are always happy to assist if we can.

The feedback we get so far suggests that there is also potential for joint meetings with us in the future including representatives from schools and other initiatives (BD beekeepers, Iona, transition town ...) as well as individuals across Belgium.

Like local bee populations in low interference bee husbandry live both as individual colonies and as an interconnected whole, we hope for a network of connected local projects across Belgium to arise that would serve both the natural self-expression of the honey bees as well as education and other social initiatives. And thus contributing to the next 100 years of Waldorf education and Bee Culture.

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