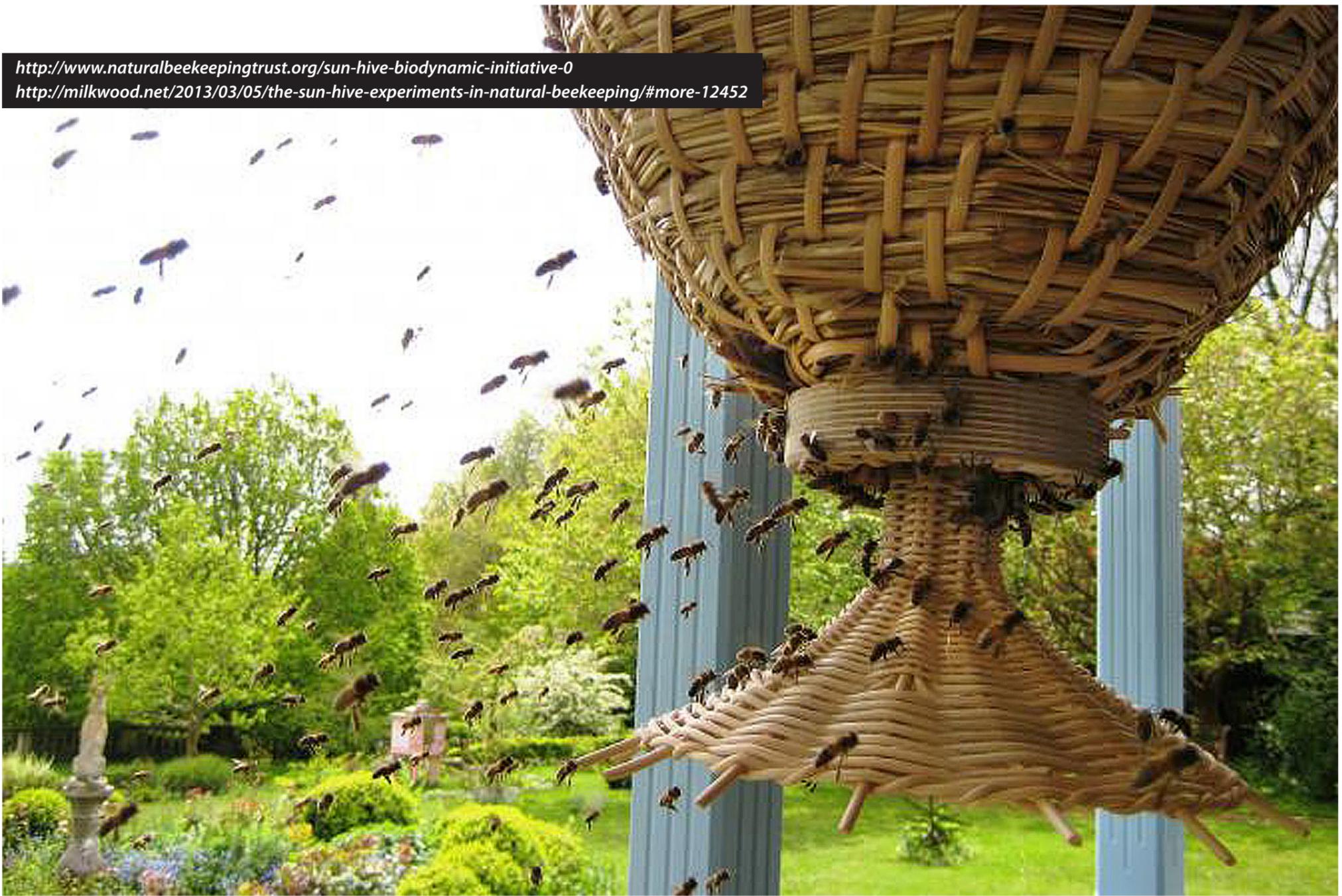


<http://www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org/sun-hive-biodynamic-initiative-0>
<http://milkwood.net/2013/03/05/the-sun-hive-experiments-in-natural-beekeeping/#more-12452>



The Sun Hive

Experimental Natural Beekeeping

The Sun Hive, **a bio-dynamic initiative**, was designed by German sculptor Guenther Mancke, and represents the fruits of many years of research into the nature of the honeybee colony.

Sun Hives are a hive design coming out of Germany and now gathering interest in Britain. They're part of the world-wide movement towards 'apicentric' beekeeping - beekeeping that prioritizes honeybees firstly as pollinators, with honey production being a secondary goal.

The Sun Hive is modeled in part on the traditional European skep hive, and is aimed at creating a hive that maximises colony health. The main thing about this hive and the enthusiasm surrounding it is not the hive itself, but the philosophy behind it, that of **Apicentric Beekeeping**.

In brief, the Sun Hive has an upside down skep hive at its base with curving frames in the top section and no frames in the bottom section. The hive is placed well above ground level (optimal for bees – they never choose to create a hive on the ground).

Like a Warré hive, the Sun Hive allows the queen bee to roam freely through the entire hive and lay eggs where she wishes to, which in turn allows the colony to manage the location and progression of their brood nest, which is great for colony health.

The top curved frames of the Sun Hive provide the ability to (in theory) remove each frame, with the free-form comb beneath coming out as well as it is (again, in theory) attached to the frame directly above.



The Sun Hive can also have a super attached to it on a honeyflow (assuming a queen excluder would be used to prevent brood comb being created in said super, which goes against the idea of allowing the queen to roam the hive, but anyway).

Natural Beekeeping, in all its global variations, is at the heart of future honeybee health. The Sun Hive is definitely part of that matrix and is causing many in Europe to rethink hive design to ensure colony resilience.



The Sun Hive - experimental natural beekeeping from Germany