

History of the MDC Kendall Campus Environmental Center



Introduction

Earth Ethics Institute emerged
as a program of the
Environmental Demonstration
Center, a unique project
housed on the Miami Dade
College Kendall Campus



Built by Volunteers

- In 1978, a group of individuals broke ground on the west side of Kendall Campus
- From here, the Environmental Demonstration Center (now the Environmental Center) sprouted up.



Innovative Design

Energy-efficient system demonstrations included:

- photovoltaic cells and wind generators storing energy in batteries
- a windmill pumping water up to a gravity-feed storage tank
- a passive solar water heater
- a gray-water system for the kitchen and bathroom sinks
- solar water distiller
- a Clivus Multrum composting toilet

Innovative structural designs demonstrating:

- food dehydration
- insulation efficiency
- Counterweight and pulley systems

As well as...

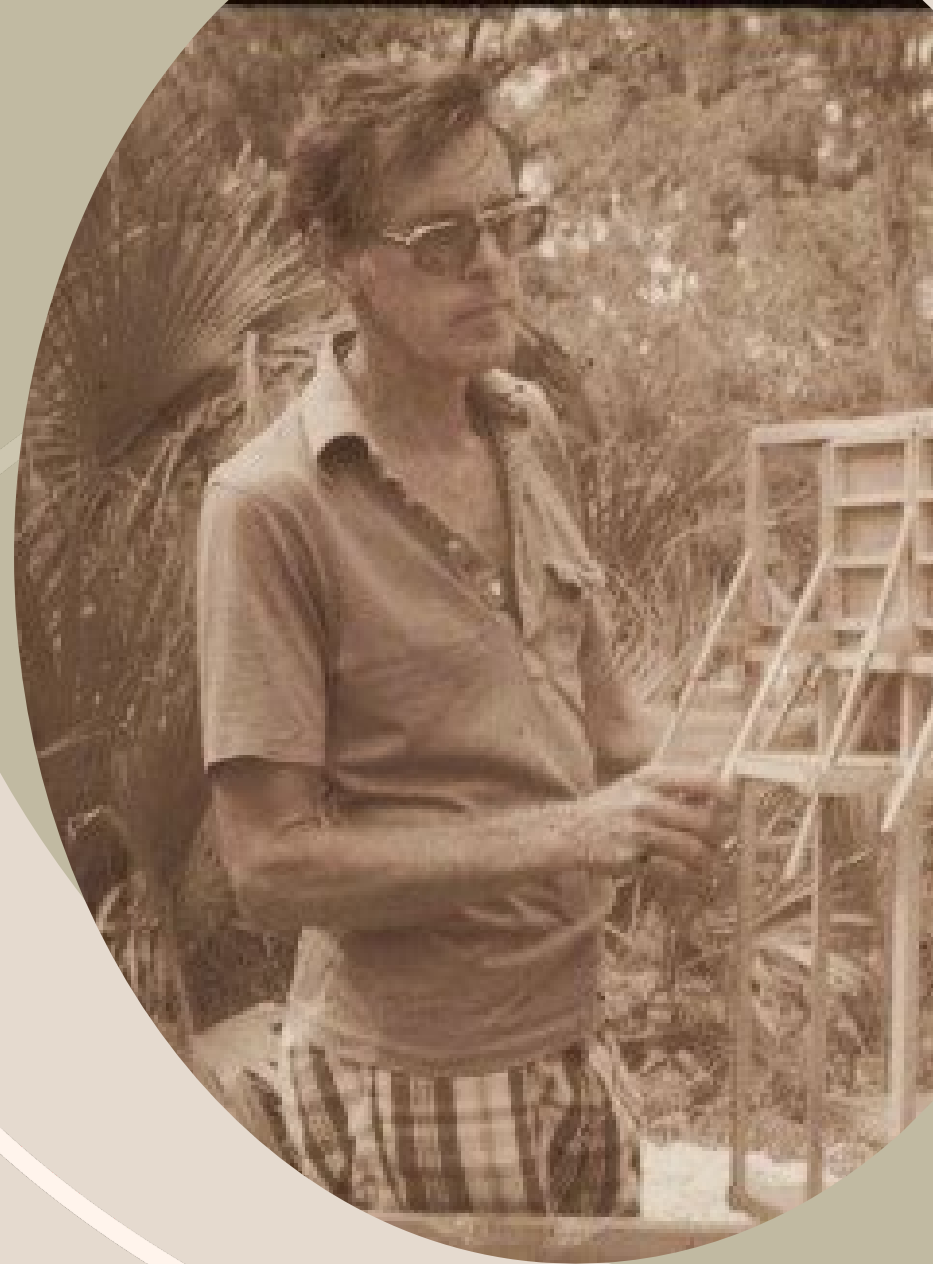
- organic gardens
- composting systems
- native landscaping



A Home to Several MDC Learning Centers

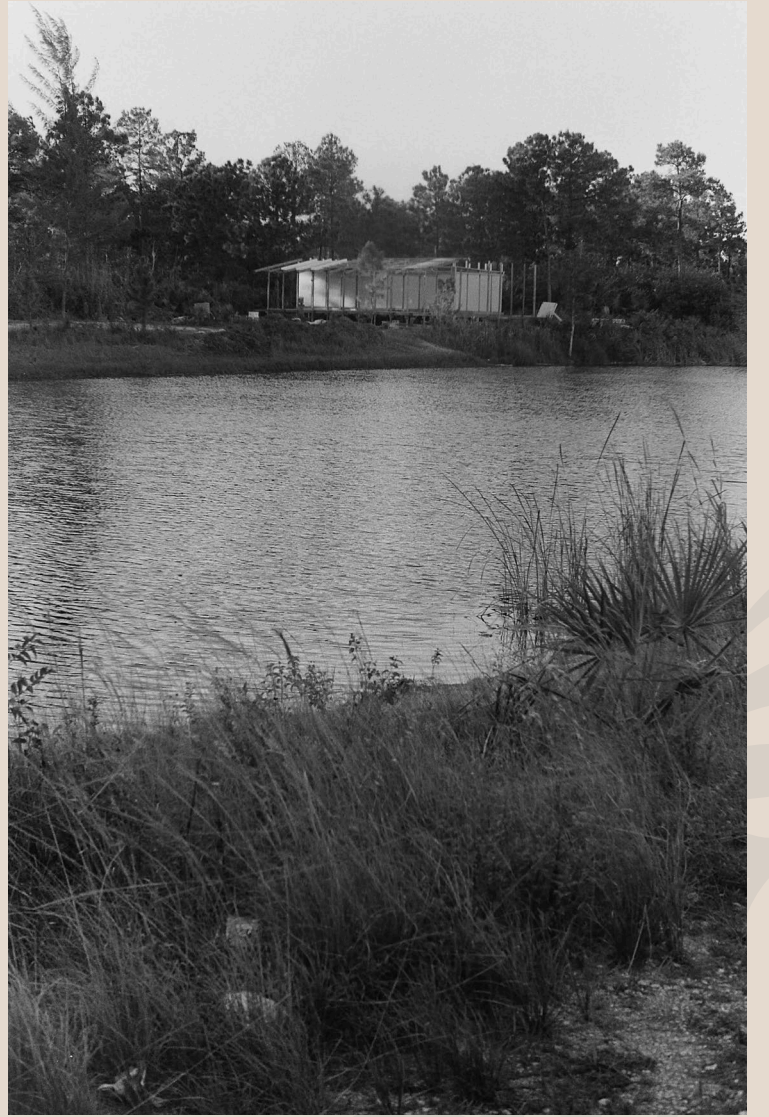
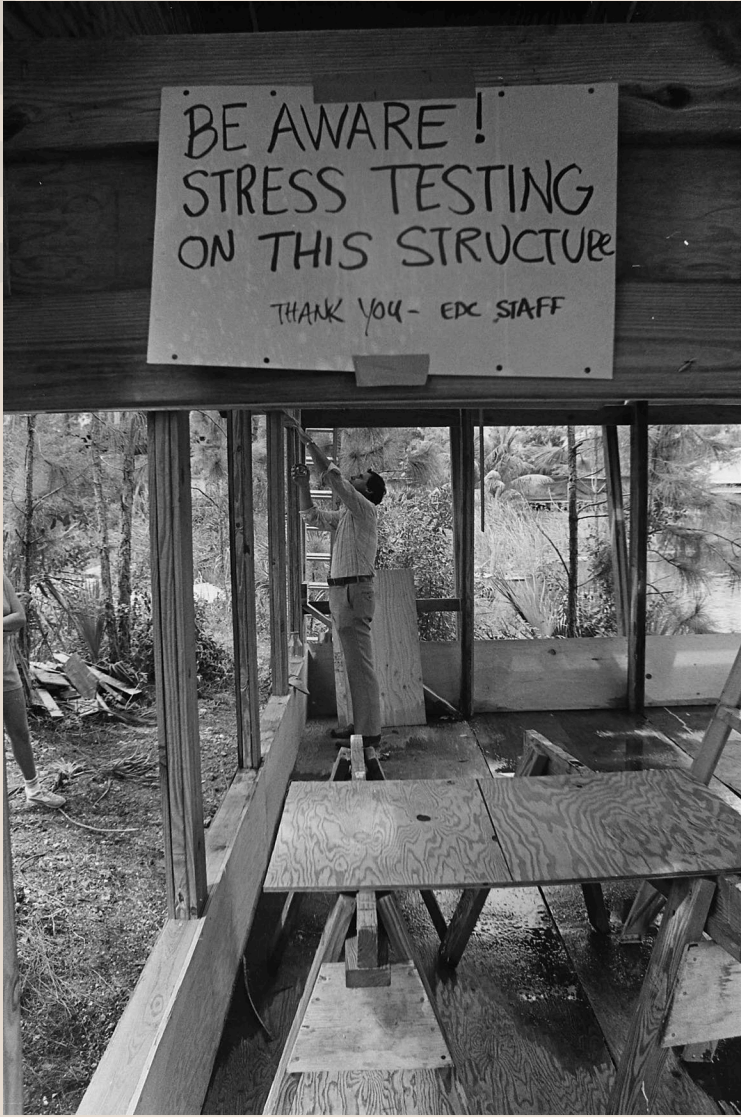
The Environmental Demonstration Center, conceived in **1976** by **Dr. McGregor Smith, Jr.**, prospered and housed several programs:

- Owner-Builder Center
- Landscape Center
- Tropical Lifestyle Center
- Nature Center









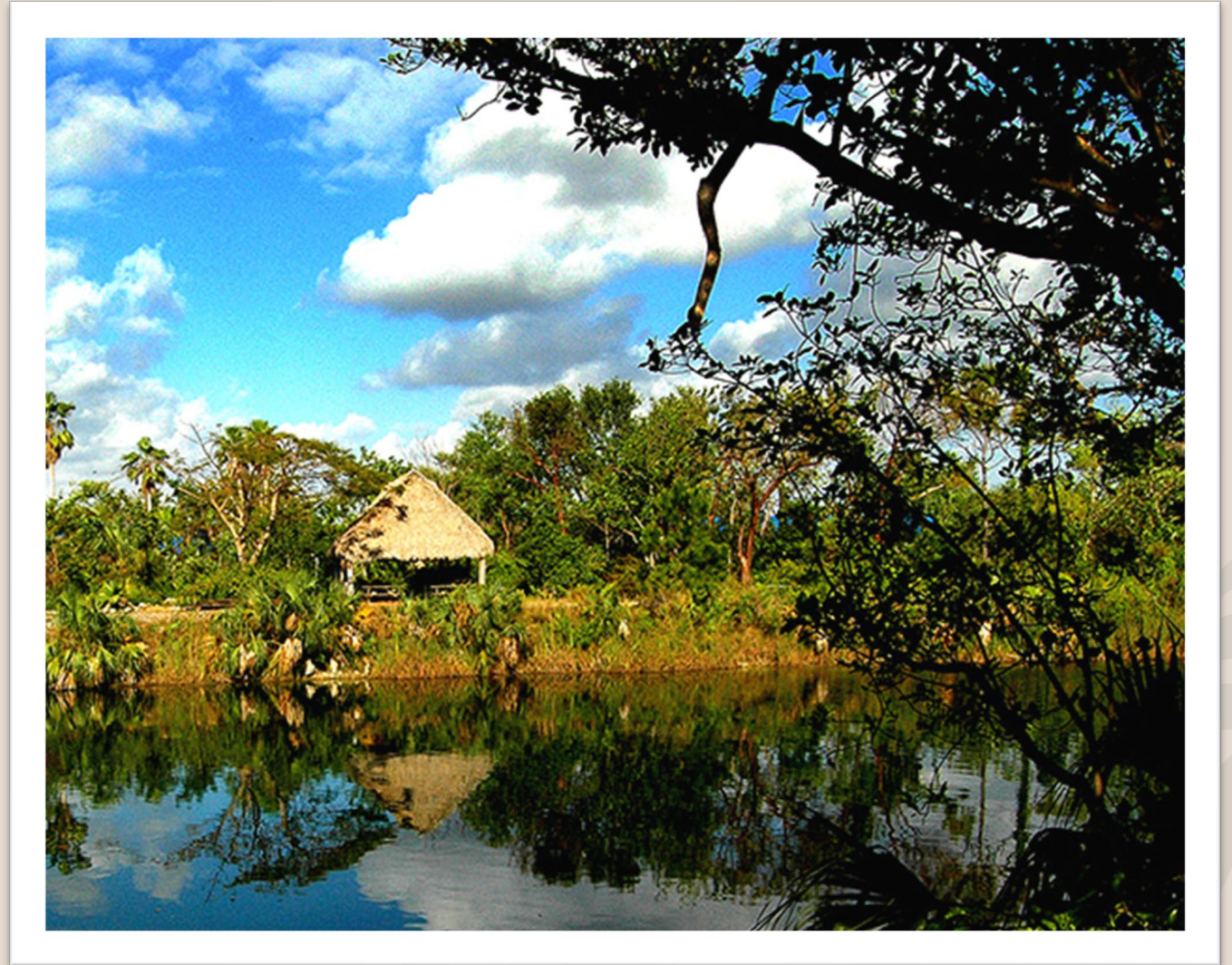
Hurricane Andrew

- The original Environmental Demonstration Center was razed after **Hurricane Andrew** in **1992**
- The photo shows the site of the center in **1994**



A New Environmental Center

- MDC Continuing Education developed a new Environmental Center on the site
- Environmental education programs were offered to the community, attracting student visitors from all over the county



A community Resource

“Demonstrating the breadth of MDC’s reach and influence, a delegation of government officials from a dozen Latin American countries recently requested a tour of the Environmental Center at Kendall Campus because they were impressed with the summer environmental programs for children offered through the School of Community Education.”

“Delegates Tour Environmental Center”
College Forum
September 2009



Environmental Center's Visitor Pavilion

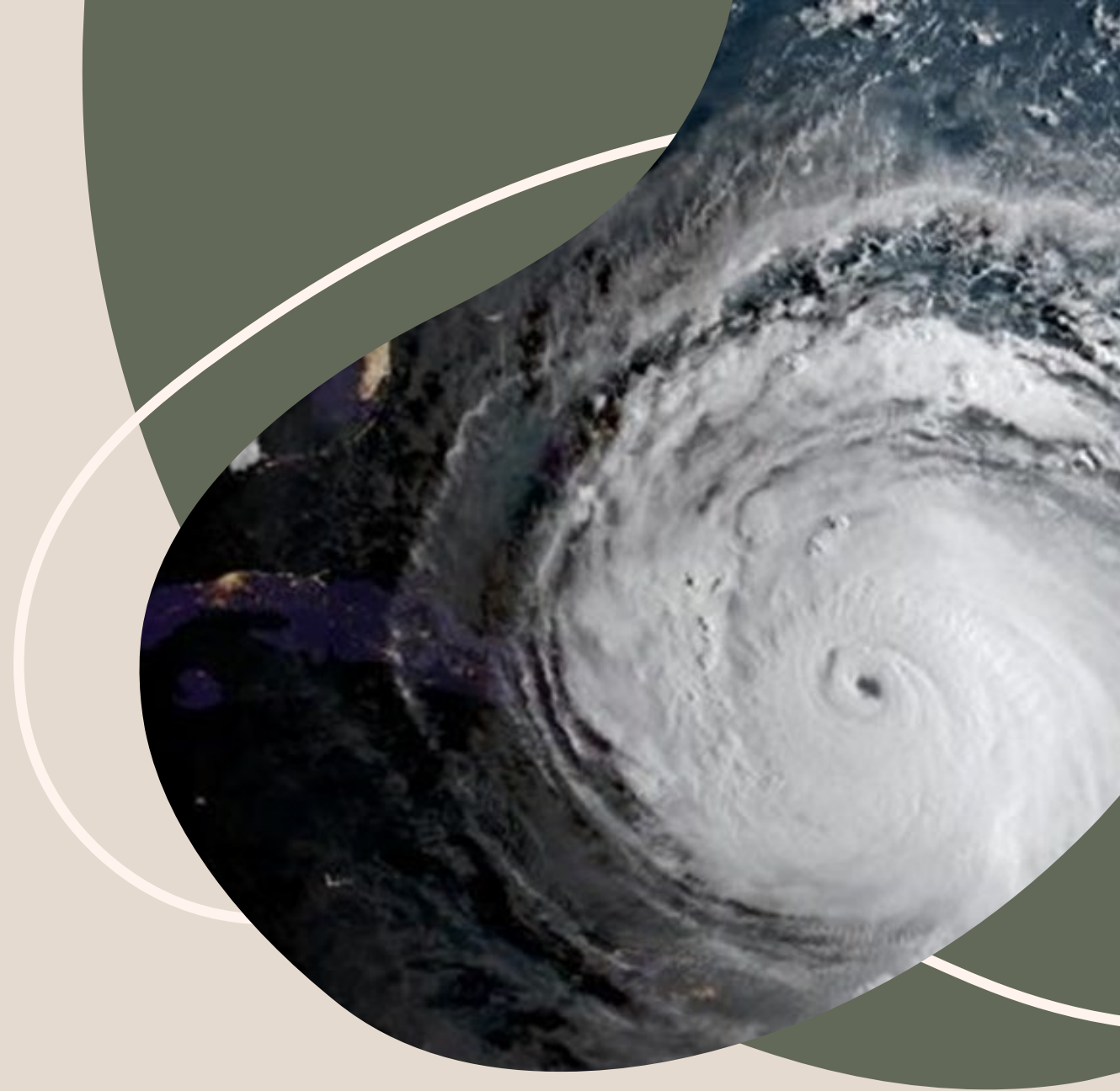


- At Kendall Campus, the Environmental Center's **Visitor Pavilion** provides a perfect introduction to the campus' nine-acre preserve.
- Featuring a completely **"off-the-grid"** design, the **Platinum LEED-certified** Pavilion showcases solar panels and rainwater collection in a "living classroom" that welcomes more than 10,000 visitors a year.



Hurricane Irma

- In 2017 the Environmental Center was again damaged; this time by **Hurricane Irma**
- The Environmental Center has been **closed** since that time



Reactivating the Kendall Campus Environmental Center

- 2023 – 2024 Earth Ethics Institute has been offering faculty professional development, cocurricular activities, volunteer opportunities, and environmental education at the Kendall Campus Environmental Center.



ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

FALL 2023 - SPRING 2025



FACULTY-LED

- **Professor Sendin** - IDH classes visits
 - Intro to EC Program (pilot)
 - Service: Invasive Plants Removal
 - Cosmic Walk activity
- **Professor Leyva** - *EarthWaterFuture* movement & writing workshop
- **Professor Silva** - *Biomimicry: Art in Nature* student exhibit & class visits
- **Professor Anaya** - English Composition classes visits
- **Professor Culver** - Architectural Communications class visit
- **Professor Johnson** - EAP class visit

STUDENT-LED

- **YES! Club**
 - *Why Should We Be Thankful for Pine Rocklands?* presentation

EEI STAFF-LED / SUPPORTED

- **Introduction to the EC Program & Service Work**
 - Spring 2024 - Professor Sendin's classes
- **Environmental Center Workday**
 - Changemaker Week, Fall 2023
- **Sustainability Committee Meetings**
- **Faculty Professional Development**
 - *Restoring Soil/Soul in Vanishing Pine Rockland*
- **MOAD - Onajide Shabaka: Miami Walking Studio** artist-led workshops
 - Spring 2024

UPCOMING (2024-2025)

- **Monthly Open Visit Days**, Oct. 2024 - May 2025
 - 30-min. Intro to EC Program
- **EEI Staff-led class tours** (professors schedule)
- **Environmental Center Workday** - Changemaker Week, Fall 2024
- **Labyrinth/Cosmic Walk Installation** - Fall 2024



“Back to Nature” Symposium Native American Cosmology w/ Betty Osceola

About Betty

Betty Osceola is a Native American Everglades grandmother, environmental activist, educator, anti-fracking and clean water advocate. She is a member of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida from the Panther Clan.

**Tuesday,
November 19th**
2 sessions:

Register here



11:15-12:30pm

12:40-1:55pm

Register here



Environmental Center

Miami Dade College - Kendall Campus

www.earthethicsinstitute.org



Cosmic Walk Labyrinth

This design will represent the Cosmic Walk in its most down-to-earth way. For our design the goal is to keep the Cosmic Walk simple and inviting while remaining immersed in nature.



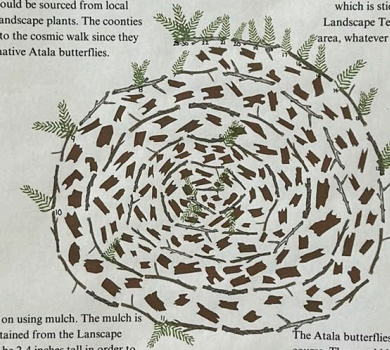
We chose site 2 of the Environmental Center which is close to a hut where events can be held. This location also provides a more immersive experience since to get to the location, you need to walk a trail which will allow people to appreciate our natural hardwood hammock.



As the time markers, we chose to use our native cycad, *Zamia integrifolia*/Coonties. The coonties could be sourced from local nurseries since they are fairly popular landscape plants. The coonties will provide a living, breathing aspect to the cosmic walk since they are also the host plants for our native Atala butterflies.

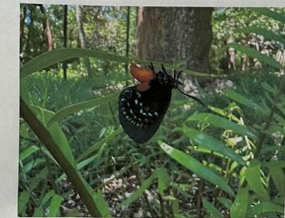


We chose a material that the area will naturally provide year-round which is sticks and twigs that may fall from the trees. Since the Landscape Technology Nursery is also willing to help maintain this area, whatever branches they trim on their trees can be used to add to the labyrinth.



For the path inside the labyrinth we plan on using mulch. The mulch is a natural resource which could be obtained from the Landscape Technology Nursery. The mulch should be 2-4 inches tall in order to prevent weeds and grass from growing through.

The Atala butterflies will have to be introduced to their new habitat of course. They could be sourced from Montgomery Botanical Center in Coral Gables which is home to thousands of Atalas.



For the sign at the end of the human timeline, we chose a simple slab of wood with wooden stilts and the words engraved. The wood will not be perfectly polished but made to look very natural so it blends in with the rest of the area. The wood could be sourced from many local garden centers or Home Depot.

GRACIELA I HAHN BERBERENA	LABYRINTH
ANGELY M. SANCHEZ SERRA	INSTALLATION
SAMANTHA OTALORA	PROPOSAL
ARC D/G	
PROF LYLE CULVER	MDC KENDALL
07/18/2024	CAMPUS