The Oak Burl

This oak tree has a burl on it. Burls begins as a gall or tumor on the tree. They can be caused by the irritation of fungi, insects, or bacteria. Burls can weaken trees but do not kill them. Research still needs to be done to learn more about what causes them to form.

The burl adds a new growth ring each year just like the rest of the tree.

People use the beautiful wood from burls to carve things.

Resources compiled by Dr. Hildegard Kuse and Dr. Loretta Kuse