

JAMES SURLS

Oak Stump

I ask all concerned to picture if you will a walk in the woods, along a path that meanders as a slow moving creek. Be enveloped in as wide a spread of green that can cover the living walls of this wooded walk way. Then play and hear the recording by Dickie Landry that is attached below. I am so pleased that Dickie has made this piece available to be played in my bower at the end of this path. I have placed a sculpture in the center of this room in the woods. This sculpture is a stump from a majestic oak that was fallen in 1983 during a hurricane, which rocked the tree back and forth until its hold on the earth became soft and the tree lost its grip. When it blew over, it was roots and all, it was simply pulled from the ground and laid on its side. I chopped off the stump bottom from the trunk with a double bladed axe and took it and cleaned it and set it up for the world to see. I have kept it all these years until now. Now I moved it back into the woods from which it came. Now it sets still in the woods and speaks with a quiet voice, telling us of its history and asking us not only to look and see, but also to listen and hear. Like birds that call out to one another, or frogs or crickets that send sounds across the way to signal and connect, so too does the creative thinker who was mothered by the sounds of the gulf winds bringing a message to those who listen and hear. Dickie Landry is a gift of nature, a gift he has woven into the evolutionary future of a humming earth.