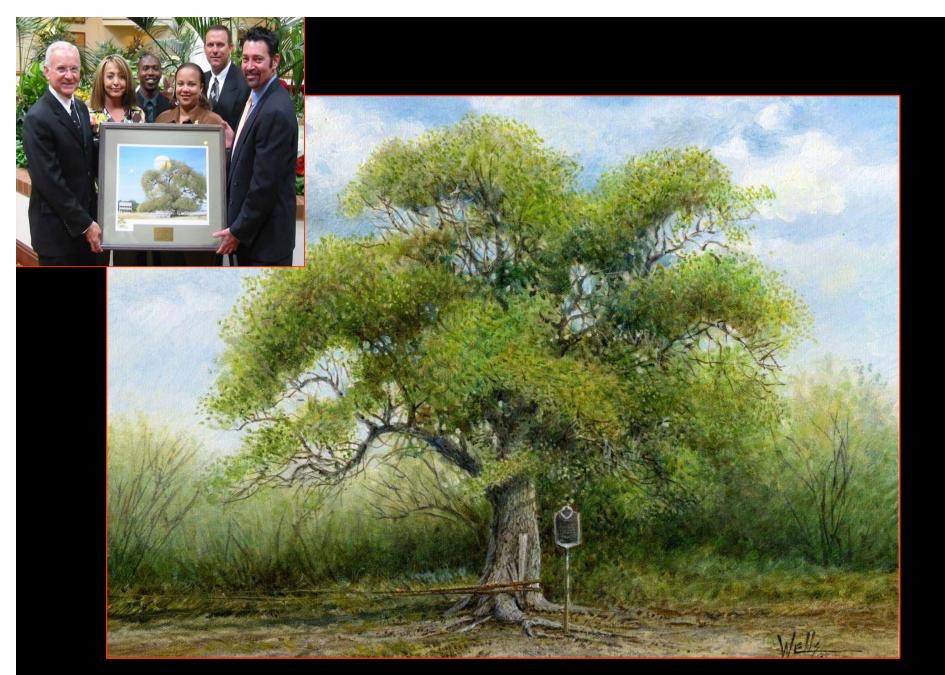
Slide – title Our next award today is this years Award of Excellence for Tree Professional of the Year. This award recognizes a professional individual for his or her contribution to urban forestry activities within a community. Nominees may include executive directors, municipal foresters and educators. This year the Tree Professional of the Year award goes to Kathy Lord.

Slide – at table As Executive Director of Trees For Houston, Kathy Lord has been committed to the reforestation of Houston. Through persistent contact with government, corporate, community, and media representatives Kathy has heightened awareness of the benefits of Houston's urban forest. In her efforts to reforest Houston she has organized and participated in educational programs, neighborhood plantings, parkway, plantings, highway reforestations and downtown beautification projects. Kathy has created many programs through Trees for Houston to reforest her community.

Slide – at tree Some educational programs she has implemented include: *Trees for Schools, Tree Scape, Urban Forest Tree Keeper, Growing Together with the National Tree Trust, the Urban ForesTree Keeper and the Trees for Energy program.* She has done neighborhood & parkway plantings such as Establishing the Trees for Houston Tribute Grove, and beginning the "Let's Grow" program with Texaco and The National Tree Trust to create a growing out center in Humble, Texas.

Slide – with check Through her leadership at Trees for Houston, Kathy Lord has initiated programs and plantings that will have a long-lasting impact on the community of Houston. Her visions for a greener, cleaner city have spurred the partnerships and financial commitments necessary to undertake large-scale tree plantings. Since 1993, Trees For Houston has planted over 300,000 trees and seedlings throughout the city of Houston – many under her guidance and direction.

**Slide – walking** The trees that Kathy is dedicated to help plant and protect will continue to clean and cool our air, buffer the noise and wind and shade and beautify our environment for many years to come. Congratulations Kathy and THANK YOU!



## The Las Cuevas Ebony

**Ronnie Wells, Artist** 







