

# MEDIA ADVISORY



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Southern Region

**Contact:** Stephanie Johnson, Public Affairs Director  
e: [snjohnson@fs.fed.us](mailto:snjohnson@fs.fed.us)  
c: (404) 895-1709

February 22, 2012 (ATLANTA) — Media correspondents are invited to honor musician Chuck Leavell at a private event where he will be named Honorary Forest Ranger by the U.S. Forest Service, Chief Tom Tidwell presiding, with tributes from 100 uniformed Forest Service delegates and special guests. Leavell is an accomplished tree farmer and author who uses his status as a world-renown musician for conservation advocacy. He will be performing at the ceremony.

**WHAT:**

Chuck Leavell, one of the most sought-after pianists in modern music, will be proclaimed Honorary Forest Ranger by the U.S. Forest Service.

**WHO:**

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell will be in downtown Atlanta along with nearly 100 others in Forest Service uniform to present this prestigious national honor to Chuck Leavell, who just received the Lifetime Achievement Award with fellow members of the Allman Brothers Band at the 2012 Grammy Awards.

**WHEN:**

Monday, February 27 at 1 p.m.

**WHERE:**

The Georgian Terrace Hotel, Grand Ballroom  
659 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30308  
(Use the hotel self-parking lot; then check in at Grand Ballroom for a parking comp.)

**BACKGROUND:**

Leavell, co-founder of the environmental website Mother Nature Network MNN, is only the second Honorary Forest Ranger named by the Forest Service. The first recognition was given to actress Betty White in 2011.

Leavell played keyboard in the Rolling Stones for thirty years and has long blended his bluesy piano and keyboards with a dedicated advocacy for the environment. His work both as a solo artist and as a musician with The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, George Harrison, The Allman Brothers Band, The Black Crowes, Gov't Mule, Train and many others is among the most accomplished of any living keyboardist.

Leavell took a forestry correspondence course while traveling on a bus tour with the Fabulous Thunderbirds in the mid-1980s, and he and his wife, Rose Lane Leavell, turned her family's plantation near Macon, Ga., into what has become a textbook tree farm. In 1999, they were the National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. He is an active in many conservation organizations, and the author of several books, including a children's book about tree farming. Leavell's latest CD, "Back to The Woods"—a tribute to the pioneering blues piano players from whom he derives his musical inspiration—will be released in March.

The Southern Region of the U.S. Forest Service actively manages public forest land in concert with state agencies and private landowners to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of all forests and grasslands in the South. Two special units and 14 national forests comprise the Southern Region.