

UNUSUAL

HEROES

Tree Farmer, Rock Star And Man Of STIHL

(NAPSA)—Rock music and tree farming don't often go together, but these two disparate careers continue to fill the days of Chuck Leavell—and he continues to excel at both.

Leavell is widely known in rock-and-roll circles as a keyboardist who has toured with the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, George Harrison and the Allman Brothers. At the same time, Leavell has made his name within the tree-farming industry, dedicating his efforts to forest management and conservation.

"Chuck is always talking about trees on tour," said Mick Jagger. "But his passion for forestry is undeniable, and he's made some strong contributions to the environment through that passion."

Since the 1970s, Leavell has sharpened his forestry fervor while honing his musical talent. He studied forestry by correspondence while touring with The Fabulous Thunderbirds in the mid-1980s. In addition, he and his wife have turned her family's 2,200-acre tree farm—Charlane Plantation, near Macon, Ga.—into an award-winning pine forest plantation, a conservation educational facility and a wildlife hunting preserve.

Leavell has received numerous accolades for his tree-farming efforts. He is the only two-time recipient of the Georgia Tree Farmer of the Year Award and was named National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in 1999. He has also partnered with STIHL Inc., the worldwide manufacturer of chain saws, on a number of high-profile initiatives in the forestry industry.



Chuck Leavell, noted rock musician and respected tree farmer/conservationist.

Leavell recently authored the book *Forever Green*, which covers topics ranging from the history of America's forest land to contemporary methods of tree harvesting. He also released a new solo piano CD, *Forever Blue*, which he dedicates to those who have committed their lives to the forest.

Leavell will partner with STIHL Inc. again in 2002. Their association is considered a natural fit, with Leavell participating in such special events as the esteemed STIHL National Forestry Heroism Award and the American Tree Farming System's National Tree Farmer of the Year award, sponsored by STIHL.

STIHL manufactures the world's largest-selling brand of chain saws and produces a full line of powerful, lightweight and versatile outdoor power equipment. The company is also the official underwriting sponsor of the STIHL® TIMBERSPORTS® Series. The series airs throughout the year on the ESPN® and espn2® cable networks.