

# Upstate ForeverGreen Awards to feature Chuck Leavell

A lot of people are giving up a lot of things right now, or perhaps we should more accurately say, they're talking about it.

Just today, I've heard conversations about lowering alcohol consumption, newly set budgets and everyone's favorite, restricted diets. It is a national tradition to set up at least one or two resolutions this time of year, with a goal of self-improvement. And for almost everyone this annual practice comes with an all-too-familiar sense of dread and deprivation.

Thinking about it made me wonder if there isn't some other way to become a better person this year, a way that would come with a little more pleasure than pain, and with a lot better chance of success than failure.



**KIM HASSOLD**

## BEHIND THE SCENES

It was with that new goal in mind that I remembered an article I read a while back about a man who had recently taken his family on a trip to an exotic island to swim with dolphins. He said it was something he had always wanted to do, but it wasn't until he was diagnosed with cancer that he did. I bet the trip that family took made a difference in every one of their lives, not to mention what

his sharing his story can do for you and me.

So maybe we won't swim with any dolphins this year, and maybe you don't want to, but I'm guessing there's something on your wish list that could make this year one to remember.

As for me, I'm planning to lift a few weights, clean out a couple of closets and stop eating so much chocolate.

But not before I take that weekend trip with friends I'm always talking about. After all, I'm pretty sure that's one resolution I won't regret.

## Upstate Forever luncheon

One goal we all should consider is becoming more environmentally aware. And what better way to start than to meet with like-minded people as

they honor those who make this practice part of their daily lives?

On Feb. 3, Upstate Forever will hold its second annual ForeverGreen awards luncheon. The event honors individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions in conservation, air and water quality, sustainable development, public service, and volunteer work in the community. The event will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites, and will include lunch, the presentation of awards, and a keynote address by famed pianist Chuck Leavell.

Upstate Forever is a nonprofit membership-based organization that promotes sensible growth and the protection of special places in the 10-county Upstate region. The organization has three main

groups: Land Trust, Clean Air and Water, and Sustainable Communities.

Brad Wyche, executive director of Upstate Forever, says the event is not to be missed.

"This is our opportunity to recognize and say thank you to an amazing group of people and organizations for their contributions in keeping the Upstate as one of the best regions in the world. And what an honor to have Chuck Leavell with us to both speak and play!"

Renowned keyboardist Leavell formerly played with The Allman Brothers Band and Eric Clapton and still plays with The Rolling Stones. He is a respected authority on conservation and a successful tree farmer. After his keynote address, Leavell will perform a few of his favorite songs for the

audience.

This year's award winners are: Extraordinary Achievement, Tommy Wyche; Public Servant of the Year, Mayor Rick Danner, City of Greer; Clear Skies Champion, Pickens County; Land Conservation Champion, Naturaland Trust; Clean Water Champion, Dave Hargett; Sustainable Communities Champion, Frank Powell; and Volunteer of the Year, Rick Huffman.

Tickets are \$50 per person. VIP tickets are \$150 per person and include premier seating and an autographed copy of Leavell's latest CD. Sponsorships start at \$750.

To become a sponsor or purchase tickets and tables, contact Kate McHugh at 232-2302 or [kate@crawfordstrategy.com](mailto:kate@crawfordstrategy.com).