

Some thoughts

by Frances Wright

The Keowee Bowmen lost a good friend Oct.10, 2004 when Jim Edens departed this world for a better one. Jim had been associated with archery since 1964 when he, Bill Shain, Mike Bibb, Charles Bright, Gene Graham, Jim Phillips and Tom Wright formed the Oconee Archers.

The Archers had trouble finding land to lease; finally in 1966 they found some land to buy off of Hwy 133 in Pickens County. Since they were no longer in Oconee County, the name was changed to Keowee Bowmen. The Bowmen Board of Directors asked Jim to go to the annual meeting of the NFAA and to put in a bid for the SE Sectional tournament. Keowee was awarded the bid and Jim came home with a list of things to be done before the shoot. At that time only the clubhouse and one range had been built. Jim's list indicated we were to build two more field ranges, a parking lot and a campground with bathhouses. The tournament was a great success and Jim had proven The Bowmen could pull off the "next to impossible". About this time Jim suggested Keowee host the NFAA Nationals! In 1976 that idea became reality and once again what was thought impossible was possible. Fred Bear came and everyone young and old enjoyed meeting him. What a Year!

Some time later Jim started "Deer Unlimited", He built a Deer Unlimited Campground near McCormick, SC. And if that wasn't enough, he then started the Little River Plantation hunting lodge in Mt. Carmel. Jim also wrote many articles for the outdoor magazines.

Jim will be remembered for his many stories, for creating "The Order of the Bone", his laughter and sense of humor, his interest in the Indians that lived in the area and much much more. Jim will be missed by every one who has known him. Perhaps if you walk through the woods on bright October day you will hear Jim laugh as he starts another story... Some thoughts by Frances Wright