

**FIRST E. V. KOMAREK SR. FIRE ECOLOGY LECTURER:
NORMAN L. CHRISTENSEN, JR.**

**Ronald L. Myers
Louise E. Robbins**

To honor E. V. Komarek's contributions to fire ecology and the wise use of fire as a land management tool, Tall Timbers Research Station and The Nature Conservancy have invited Norman L. Christensen to present the First E. V. Komarek Sr. Fire Ecology Lecture. Dr. Christensen has not only advanced the science of fire ecology, but has played a part in formulating national fire management policy.

Dr. Christensen received his A.B. and M.A. in biology from Fresno State College, and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Barbara. His doctoral dissertation was a seminal study of fire effects on nutrient cycling and plant growth in California chaparral. Since 1973 he has been a Professor of Botany at Duke University. Dr. Christensen is internationally recognized for excellence in research and is also esteemed as a teacher; he was a guest lecturer at the University of Barcelona in Spain, has taught at several biological field stations, and was given an award for teaching excellence by Duke University. His current research focuses on the effects of disturbance on the structure and function of populations and communities. Ongoing studies include an analysis of patterns of forest development following cropland abandonment as these are affected by environment, stand history, and plant demographic patterns. In the Southeastern Coastal Plain, he is examining biogeochemical and community responses to varying fire regimes.

Dr. Christensen coordinated the conference *Fire Regimes and Ecosystems Properties* held in 1978 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The proceedings of that conference remain one of the best syntheses of our knowledge of the ecological impact of fire frequency and intensity on species characteristics and ecosystem function. In 1986, he served as chairman of the Review Panel for The National Park Service Fire Management Program, and this past year he has been chairman of the Greater Yellowstone Postfire Ecological Assessment Panel. Dr. Christensen has also been a longstanding friend of The Nature Conservancy and is a member of the North Carolina Nature Conservancy Stewardship Committee. Because of Dr. Christensen's contributions to so many aspects of fire ecology and fire management, we are pleased to welcome him as the First E. V. Komarek Sr. Fire Ecology Lecturer.