

FIRE BOSS RANDY THOMPSON watches as his backing fire builds

# Burn Study Continues In Swamp

BY SUSAN USHER It was a fast, neat burn; the first of the four plots went up in smoke in less than 15 minutes, leaving a tidy

rectangle smoldering in its wake. Seconds later, Rick Schneider was down on one knee, checking the readout on a "minlogger," a por-table computer device used to down on one knee, checking the readout on a "minilogger," a portable computer device used to measure temperatures at various intervals during the fire. At one point—probably early in the burn he said, temperatures reached at least 1,100 degrees in the wiregrass 1,000 degrees 1,000 degrees 1,000 degrees 1,000 degrees 1,000 degrees were lower over all than they would have been had the fuel been dry.

Thursday's "burn" was part of Schneider's continuing decloral work in plant community ecology. He's studying the role of wildfire—or its absence—on the wire-grass/longled pine savannahs of the Green Swamp. Using a technique called prescribed burning, the Duke University student has been burning plots at various times of year and under varying controlled conditions to determine how often and when during the year the savannahs should be tarned for maximum benefit.

The Burn

In 51-degree weather and with a slught brever out of the northeast Fire loss Randy Thompson and his assistant. Gary Sykes, started a "hacking" fire, the easiest kind to contain. Thompson took a driptorch and set ablaze one side of the plot. Then he set fire to the other side.

Meanwhile, volunteers equipped with 40-pound water tanks and rabber flappers watched to make sure the fire stayed within its assigned boundaries. With bandanas pulled upon their faces, Carol May, Margit Bucher, Abi Rome and Bob Northeat standbered or based the few flames bold enough to creep into the mowed, raked border surrounding the plot.

With a low whistling sound the two fires quickly met and peaked, then died, leaving smoldering ash in their wake. However, the dampness of the fuel meant only the top layer of vegetation had burned thoroughly. Underneath, green peeked through the flames missed them altogether, noted Ms. May, the North Carolina Nature Conservancy's director, of Nature Conservancy's director of stewardship. She's supervises caretaking of the Conservancy's

caretaking of the preserves.

Thursday was the second time Schneider had attempted to measure temperatures; at an earlier burn he used a series of painted plates, all of which bistered and peeled.

This time wires of different metals—which heat up at different temperatures—were connected,

creating a "thermocouple" to generate a measurable electrical charge. Wires were set on the surface of the ground, one centimeter beneath it and several feet above it. Scheider anticipated a difference of between 690 and 700 degrees bet-ween temperatures taken at surface and above-surface levels.

"It should be obvious which ones are above and which aren't," he add-

are above and which aren't," he added.

Burning is known to help certain types of vegetation found in the Green Swamp Preserve; such as flowering wiregrass, as well as helping create an environment hospitable to certain carniverous plants. It is also used as a management tool by the forestry industry to reduce the likelihood of rampaging wildfires.

# Month Warm, Wet, Cloudy

weather Service office in Wilmington.

Temperatures averaged 59.7 degrees, tying November 1975 as the sixth warmest November since the service began keeping local records in 1871.

Precipitation totaled nearly 4½ in-

November was warm, wet and ches, with 1.25 inches recorded on cloudy, according to the National Nov. 15 and measurable rainfall on 12 Weather Service office in Wilm-days.

days.
On the 30th a wind gust to 41 mph was recorded, with average daily wind speeds of 8.3 mph.
November usually receives 65 percent of possible sunshine for the month; this November the percentage was 37.



RESEARCHER RICK SCHNEIDER (right) sets up a minilogger to record temperatures as volunteers (from the front clockwise) Abi Rome, Carol May, Bob

crew members Randy Thompson and Gary Sykes of Federal Paperboard Co.

### November Health Grades Reported

fractions Restaurants: Calabash Seafood ouse, Calabash, 84: Carla's Country House, Calabash, 84: Carla's Country Kitchen, Seaside, 80.5; Ginny's Chicken House, Holdon Beach, 95; Hardoe's, Shallotte, 95; Hill's Deh Bakery, Shallotte, 96; Island House, Ocean Isle Boach, 96; Kenny's Restaurant, Shallotte, 96; Margle's Homestyle Restaurant, Shallotte, 98; Hoberto's Pizza, Seaside, 91; Sizzlin' Sirloin Steakheuse, Shallotte, 95; Thomas' Restaurant, Calabash,

Food Stands: JJ's Grill, Shallotte,

Meat Markets: Food Lion, Shallotte, 95.5: Hill's No. 55, Leland, 50: Shallotte Red & White, Shallotte, 91: Wilson's No. 6, Southport, 92.5.

Southport Elementary School, Southport, 92.5.

Lodging Places: Ann's Motel, Holivia, 90: Boiling Spring Lakes, Motel, Boiling Spring Lakes, 95: Cap-tain's Cove Motel, Long Beach, 92.5; Holiday Lodge Motel, Leland, 70.5; Pier House Motel, Long Beach, 95.5; Town and Country Motel, Leland, 86; Twilight Motel, Shallotte, 95.5; Island Inn, Long Beach, 95.

Day Care Facilities: Tiny Friends

Bed and Breakfast: Dosher Planta-tion House, Southport, 97.
School Lunchrooms: North Brunswick High School, Leland, 93;
Southport, approved.

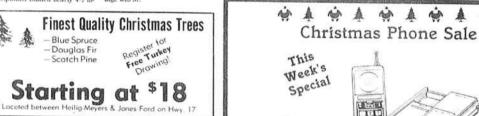
## **Need Mortgage Money?**

If you are buying property or thinking of refinancing, call us for first consideration on all kinds of real estate

(919) 642-8143











#### KX-T3825 Easa-Phone

Cordlessphone with 2-Channel System, Digital Security Coding, Paging and Tone/Pulse Settings on Portable

- 2-band transmitting frequency to help avoid interference 256 different digital security codes (16 user-selectable) Auto Security System Make and receive calls up to 1,000 feet\* away from the Base

- station

  Operates on 46—49 MHz receiving/transmitting frequency
  One-touch Redial for last dialed telephone number (up to 30 digits)
  Tone(DTMF)/Pulse settings on Portable
  Ability to combine Tone/Pulse dialing modes
  Paging from Base to Portable

only \$95.00 Reg. Price \$109.95

Rotary Dial Telephones Reduced 20% Decorator Telephones (Includes Displays) Reduced 40%

COME BY

ATLANTIC TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORP. TODAY We Service What We Sell"

※ ※ ※