

POETRY

From
Page A13

Chestertown, MD 21620.
A limited edition of the winning poem will be reproduced by hand-set letterpress, and the poet will receive \$100. The runner-up will receive \$80.

Of being tapped to judge the poems, Nowak said, "I'm both honored and a little bit frightened. Honored that I was chosen to serve as judge for the competition, and frightened at the thought of choosing just one poem from what I imagine, in this community, will be a bounty of poems. I hope people who might not consider themselves poets or even writers try their hand and send something in. I want my opportunity to judge to also be, for me, a chance to learn about the region's history and untold

cultural specialists on staff to help farmers wade through the red tape involved in nutrient management planning. Runoff from farms is a leading polluter of Eastern Shore waterways, and all of it ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. Planning cover crops and buffers at the edge of the river are two ways farmers are helping control the runoff.

The problem of private septic systems in Kent County also is pervasive, Ramsey explains. The CRA thus has hired a specialist to help educate property owners on the problems and the solutions.

"Nobody wants to pay now for what's going to happen in 20 years," says Ramsey. "But what will it cost our kids? What will be left if we don't act now?"

It's going to be a tough battle, just the kind of challenge Pat Nielsen would relish. Among the accolades she

has received over the years was the 2003 Bernie Fowler Award, given by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to a resident for "demonstrating extraordinary commitment, effort and dedication to the Tributary Team mission and protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay ... Ms. Nielsen is a remarkable woman whose drive, energy and persistence have resulted in great strides and partnerships in restoring and protecting the Chester River and the Upper Eastern Shore watershed," the DNCR award announcement read.

Not bad for a woman who grew up in urban New Jersey, worked in Manhattan, and lived in Brooklyn full-time.

Perhaps it was her destiny — and the great fortune for those she knew and the waters she loved — that she discovered the Eastern Shore through Ed Nielsen, whose family acquired Corsica Farm near Centreville in the 1940s. Ed remembers how he and Pat were canoeing along the Corsica River one day talking about work and marriage and their future together. Both were involved in the television industry in New York, but could see the industry's center shifting to Los Angeles.

"A lot of our friends were leaving for L.A.," Ed recalls. "We're sitting on the river and Pat says, 'Can we really leave this?' Well, that kind of sealed our fate."



Submitted photo

Pat Nielsen's husband, Ed, said this photo was taken on the shoreline of Corsica Farm, where he grew up, in the late '70s.

ing to Ramsey, the CRA is using the courts to fight polluters.

"We have some wonderful donors. They provide us with the money to fight with a big stick," she says. Recent targets have been Chestertown Foods, now closed, and Genovique in Worton.

The group also has two agri-