

CHS teacher recognized by forestry org.

Veteran science mentor Stetson receives RIFCO's 'Friend of the Forest' award for his approach

JESSICA BOISCLAIR
Jboisclair@ricentral.com

COVENTRY—A teacher at Coventry High School was recently awarded The Rhode Island Forest Conservator's Organization (RIFCO) Friend of the Forest award after dedicating his career to teaching students about the environment.

Peter Stetson, Applied Environmental Science teacher at the high school, was presented the award for his work with "the Envirothon Program and motivating Rhode Island's youth to be better stewards of our environment."

He explained that he's the coach for the school's team, which has been around since 2000, and also the president of the Rhode Island Envirothon.

This program invites students to attend hands-on workshops on natural resources. The teams of students then take what they've

learned and participate in an outdoor competition, held every spring.

"We won the state competition a couple times and have gone on to the national competition," Stetson explained.

Stetson said he has taught environmental science at the high school for the past 20 years and incorporates a good portion of forestry into the curriculum.

He said RIFCO is well aware of his participation in the Envirothon program and several students, whose parents are involved in RIFCO, have had him as a teacher.

"They're well aware of what I teach the kids as far as respecting the resources, learning the different products that come out of the forest; students really learn about that resource management end of things and my involvement with Envirothon," he explained.

Stetson said he's done a great deal



File photo

Coventry High science teacher Peter Stetson has been teaching for the past 20 years at Coventry High School, leading the envirothon team to multiple championships.

of things in the classroom to help the students learn about nature. He said he was teaching between 50 and 75 students how to identify trees and "respect the forest around them."

Along with forestry, Stetson has implemented aquaculture into his classroom and recently began raising rainbow trout.

See STETSON, Page A-2

Stetson gets recognition

Continued from Page A-1

“We have trout in there and students do water quality measurements; they learn what the temperature of the air around them and how these things interact in the environment with the fish,” he added.

He also explained that his students do work in the greenhouse that’s located at the school.

“Peter has been an effective promoter of land conservation, watershed protection and healthy forests throughout his involvement with the Envirothon Program and through his mentoring of students in his classes,” said RIFCO President William Fortune.

Stetson said in the month ahead he’ll be assisting RIFCO with a GPS program for local land owners.

He said the handheld units the land owners will be using can track where things are on their property. Once the information is collected it can be uploaded onto a map.

“They will then be able to see where they are, where the things are on their property around them; so it’ll teach the land owners how to walk around their property and mark certain things like trees and plants and plug that into a computer and that’ll show up on the map,” he added.

Stetson, who received a plaque, said it was “very nice to be recognized” for all the hard work he’s put in.