

# Monroe Conservation Commission

Monroe Town Hall  
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## Conservationist of the Month Felicia Ortner



Felicia Ortner

The Monroe Conservation Commission is pleased to recognize resident Felicia Ortner as Conservationist of the Month for November. Felicia has been a bear enthusiast for over 25 years. She has studied bear's life style, physiology, behavior and natural history through books, journals, workshops, and lectures. In the mid 1990's Felicia became a Docent at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and turned her passion for learning about bears into a passion for teaching about them. She developed an education program called the Bear Reality and expanded her audience from Zoo visitors to libraries, schools, nature centers, scouts and more. In 2002 she completed the CT DEP's Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC) program. About a year and a half ago the DEP and the Bear Reality came together and Felicia started presenting bear education programs on behalf of the DEP's MWC program. So far, in 2009, Felicia has logged over 70 education hours and reached over 2200 people around the state and into NY. Felicia has been able to join the CT DEP on two Black Bear winter den checks and has attended the Wildlife Research Institute Black Bear Workshops in Ely MN four of the last five years. With the populations of Black Bear increasing through our state, Felicia hopes, "through outreach and education that these magnificent creatures will become better

The Monroe Conservation Commission manages parks and open space properties for the town's enjoyment, including Webb Mountain Discovery Zone, Webb Mountain Park, Chalk Hill Nature Trail, Lane's Mines Park, and the Halfway River properties.

### Commission Members

Chairman  
Michael O'Reilly

Vice Chairman  
Gail Bunovsky

Secretary  
Michael Visconti

Treasurer  
Christine Clark

Members  
Cindy Ambrosey  
Robert Martin  
Christine Clark

Town Hall Liaisons  
Dave Solek

understood, we will learn to respect them instead of fear them and a strategy of coexistence with humans and bears is in the future". Anyone interested in bringing the Bear Reality to their facility may contact [The Bear Reality](#)

Vincent  
Mangiacopra

*By Christine Clark*

The Monroe Conservation Commission Seeks nominations

Residents can nominate themselves or other Monroe residents who are making a difference and having a positive impact for people, their resources and the environment (not necessarily only in Monroe). Nominations can be e-mailed to [monroeconservation@monroect.org](mailto:monroeconservation@monroect.org) or mailed to the Monroe Conservation Commission 7 Fan Hill Rd. Monroe, CT 06468.

The Monroe Conservation Commission  
meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm  
in the Town Hall conference room.

Public participation is welcome.

Email us at [Monroe Conservation](#) with questions, comments  
or concerns about our properties and nominations for Conservationist of the Month.

