Conference Excursions

All excursions are scheduled to take place between 12:30 and 4:00 pm on Thursday May 2nd, 2024.

**Bird Banding**

We are super excited to be able to offer a unique bird banding education experience through the newly established Columbia Lake Bird Observatory. Bird banding is occurring at the [University of Waterloo North Campus Community Garden (at Columbia Lake), Waterloo, Ontario](https://www.google.ca/maps/search/43.473550,+-80.559789?entry=tts). Attendees are asked to make their way to Columbia Lake before the start of their selected bird banding session.

***rare* Charitable Research Reserve**

[***rare*** Charitable Research Reserve](https://raresites.org/) is a community-based, 1200+ acre urban land trust located in Cambridge, Ontario with goals in conservation, research, and education in and around the Waterloo Region. ***rare*** protects highly sensitive lands across eight properties in the area and has been a field site for over 80 projects for researchers across a variety of disciplines. For OE3C 2024, we have partnered with ***rare*** to offer our attendees a guided walk, tour, and activity (gardening, pollinator surveys, etc.) at the land trust.

Two sessions to travel to RARE are available; one morning (10:00am–12:00pm) and one afternoon (12:00pm–2:00pm) session. Those attending ***rare*** are asked to meet outside the Quantum Nano Centre (QNC) on the University of Waterloo Campus **30 minutes** before the scheduled session, as a bus will be taking folks to the land trust site. An OE3C volunteer will accompany groups to both sessions, so be on the lookout for OE3C official t–shirts.

The trips to ***rare*** are weather dependent. Folks registered for the rare excursions will be informed ahead of time, should the excursion be rained-out. In non-ideal weather, the bus will travel to the [Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory](https://www.cambridgebutterfly.com/) in Cambridge, Ontario. The Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory is a tropical indoor garden hosting thousands of free-flying butterflies. The Conservatory works to promote butterfly conservation and education, displaying these creatures at all stages of life through their live insect galleries. Tickets to tour ***rare*** or visit the Butterfly Conservatory are free of charge for attendees.

**WATER Facility Tours**

[The Waterloo Aquatic Threats in Environmental Research (WATER) Facility](https://uwaterloo.ca/biology/resources-and-services/water-facility) is a newly renovated aquatics facility within the Biology Department at the University of Waterloo. The facility supports research initiatives by using aquaculture industry style systems to monitor and control water parameters in several types of aquatic housing systems. The facility can house many different aquatic species, aquatic and terrestrial amphibians, and more!

There are several guided tours of the WATER Facility scheduled. Folks attending tours are asked to meet in the [Biology 1](https://maps.app.goo.gl/9AXSioywWtgfpxicA) (B1) – room 178 before the start of their scheduled session.

**Tree Planting**

Partnering with the University of Waterloo Sustainability Office, planting of native Ontario trees is occurring on campus. OE3C attendees are encouraged to drop by and plant trees anytime [on campus](https://www.google.ca/maps/place/43%C2%B028'13.8%22N+80%C2%B032'59.1%22W/@43.470506,-80.5511897,442m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m7!1m2!2m1!1sstc!3m3!8m2!3d43.470506!4d-80.54974?entry=ttu) between 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Nature Walk**

Columbia Lake Environmental Reserve is a wildlife hotspot that is a part of the [University of Waterloo’s North Campus](https://maps.app.goo.gl/eXBFa7EeCbV8d4Y2A). Columbia Lake is a fantastic location for waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds, migrating raptors and passerines, as well as small mammals, amphibians, and a diverse array of native flora. At any time, attendees are welcome to walk the trails and enjoy what the environmental reserve has to offer.

**Zoological Collections**

The Biology department at the University of Waterloo houses countless museum specimens that will be on special, limited-time display for OE3C attendees. Folks can drop by [Biology 2](https://maps.app.goo.gl/9hzTcqUHi19at4mN7) rooms 149/150 to view the biological collections and can participate in a skull identification educational activity from 1:30-4:00pm.

**UWaterloo Art Gallery**

The University of Waterloo Art Gallery displays exhibitions of Canadian and international artists. Open to OE3C attendees, the gallery on campus provides a thoughtful, dynamic, and engaging program of exhibitions, artist presentations, and events featuring multimedia interdisciplinary work.

The current exhibit showcases work from Behnaz Fatemi. Entitled “*We will lose our beloveds,”* Fatemi’s body of work highlights the complexities of migration. The artist will be doing a dance and performance between 12-2pm in ([East Campus Hall](https://maps.app.goo.gl/4feoghsZVYVUwTQ98) Rm 1239).

More information about the performance, and the gallery, can be found on the [University of Waterloo Art Gallery (UWag) website](https://uwag.uwaterloo.ca/).

**Earth Science Museum**

The Earth Science Museum at the University of Waterloo houses an incredible gallery of geological and archaeological collections. OE3C attendees are encouraged to explore the open gallery at any time in the [Centre for Environmental & Information Technology (EIT) building](https://maps.app.goo.gl/zSnw75zeKn4mN7vJ9) on the afternoon of May 2nd from 1:30-4:00pm. More information about the museum can be found on their [website](https://uwaterloo.ca/earth-sciences-museum/).