

The Eugene Natural History Society Presents a Free Program (with free snacks!)



Left: Mountain beaver, *Aplodontia rufa*. U.S.F.S



Right: *Alphagaulus tedfordi*, extinct rodent relative of the mountain beaver. American Museum of Natural History, New York. *Samantha Hopkins*

Evolutionary Origins of the Mountain Beaver: Fossil History of an Enigmatic Rodent

Samantha Hopkins

**Department of Earth Sciences
University of Oregon, Eugene**

Friday, 15 May 2026, 7:00 pm

Drawing on the fossil record, Samantha will discuss what mountain beavers ancestors were, how they changed over time, and what their history can tell us about the present. This story is, in many ways, built the way paleontology often is—starting with a small set of puzzling remains and working outward, piece by piece, to reconstruct something much larger. A good mystery, patiently worked through.

This month's meeting will be a hybrid of in person and real-time Zoom. The in-person lecture will be held at 7:00 in 221 Allen Hall, University of Oregon campus. **Snacks provided!** The Zoom lecture link is <https://zoom.us/j/97499095971?pwd=eE9sdG9hSHMvOHhIUeJuU21wT20rdz09> or see our website at <https://eugenenaturalhistorysociety.org/>