



Workshop Registration Form

Paleo 2026 Symposium



Workshop Details

Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026

Location: Room B140, Main Building Level 1 (lower level), Mount Royal University

Minimum Age: 12 years old as of March 15, 2026

Fee: \$10.00 per person (no GST charged)

Registration Deadline: March 6, 2026

Registration Limit: 20 participants per workshop, so register early!

Workshop 1: Early Vertebrate Fossil Identification and Anatomy – what does it tell us about our own evolution?

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Presenter

Dr. Melina Jobbins, Palaeobiologist, Postdoctoral Fellow – University of Manitoba

Description

Early vertebrates consist of the first vertebrate groups to have evolved in life's history. They include fossil armoured jawless and jawed fishes, as well as bony and cartilaginous fishes that lived from the Ordovician to the end of the Devonian primarily. Together, these groups are witnesses to the early steps in vertebrate evolution, including the origin of bone, a differentiated skeleton with fins, jaws and teeth, and the transition from water to land through adaptations like lungs and limbs. All these steps were key contributors to the success of this group, allowing vertebrates to rapidly diversify their diets and feeding strategies, colonize new environments, and fill new ecological niches. By doing so, they flourished rapidly soon after their origin to, further down the line, give rise to amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals like us. Thus, learning about early vertebrates allows us to understand more about our own origins and early evolution.

In this workshop, participants will:

1. Get an introduction to the different early vertebrate groups.
2. Get hands-on experience with specimens (fossils and 3D prints) and comparative material.
3. Learn identification tools related to the material at hand and discuss their advantages vs limitations for both the given material and overall.
4. Learn how the mode of preservation affects the amount of knowledge that can be extracted from a fossil.

Suggested Items to Bring

1. Preferred means for taking pictures of fossils.
2. Microscopes may also be used so also think of your preferred means for taking pictures through a microscope lens.
3. Notepad and pen/pencil for taking notes and making sketches.

Workshop 2: Microvertebrate Fish Fossil Identification and Interpretation to Reconstruct Faunal and Environmental Changes

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Presenter

Dr. Julien Divay, Palaeoichthyologist, Hon. Research Associate – Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology

Description

Fish microvertebrate fossils—including teeth, scales, and bone fragments—are valuable tools in palaeontological and geological research that are often abundant in sedimentary basins. They represent the best evidence of the past diversity of local faunas, enabling us to reconstruct aquatic ecosystems, time turnover events, track evolutionary changes, and time phylogenetic divergences in fish lineages. Their abundance and diversity also make them excellent sources of palaeobiogeographic information, useful for determining hydrological connections between drainage basins and for dating dispersal events. Additionally, local fish diversities can indicate past environmental conditions such as water temperature, salinity, and habitat type. Thus, fish microvertebrate fossils provide crucial insights into palaeoecology, palaeoclimate, and the geological history of aquatic environments.

In this workshop, participants will:

1. Get hands-on experience with specimens and comparative material.
2. Learn and discuss identification features and techniques as well as the particular challenges represented by working with this material.
3. Learn field and lab methods used to collect and prepare this material.
4. Learn how to document morphologies appropriately.
5. Learn methods used to interpret and compare assemblages.
6. Learn about future potential avenues for this research.

Suggested Items to Bring

1. Microvertebrate fossil-sorting equipment – e.g., picks, tweezers, fine paint brushes, etc. However, tweezers can be provided for you, if desired.
2. Note pad and pen for taking notes/making sketches.
3. Your favourite means of taking pictures of specimens through a microscope lens.

Registration

Please register by emailing giftshop@albertapaleo.org, in person at a monthly APS meeting, or by mailing your cheque to the Society's mailing address:

P.O. Box 68024, Crowfoot Postal Outlet, Calgary, Alberta, T3G 3N8

Payment can be made via cash, cheque, or Interac e-Transfer to payee giftshop@albertapaleo.org. Make cheques payable to **Alberta Palaeontological Society**.

Primary Participant

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

Workshop(s) Registration:

Workshop 1: Early Vertebrate Fossil Identification and Anatomy (9:00 am – 12:00 pm) - \$10.00

Workshop 2: Microvertebrate Fish Fossil Identification (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm) - \$10.00

Additional Participants

Name	Workshop 1 (Morning)	Workshop 2 (Afternoon)
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Total Price (including primary participant): \$

Method of Payment:

Cash (in person)

Cheque (in person)

Cheque (via mail)

Interac email transfer to payee: giftshop@albertapaleo.org