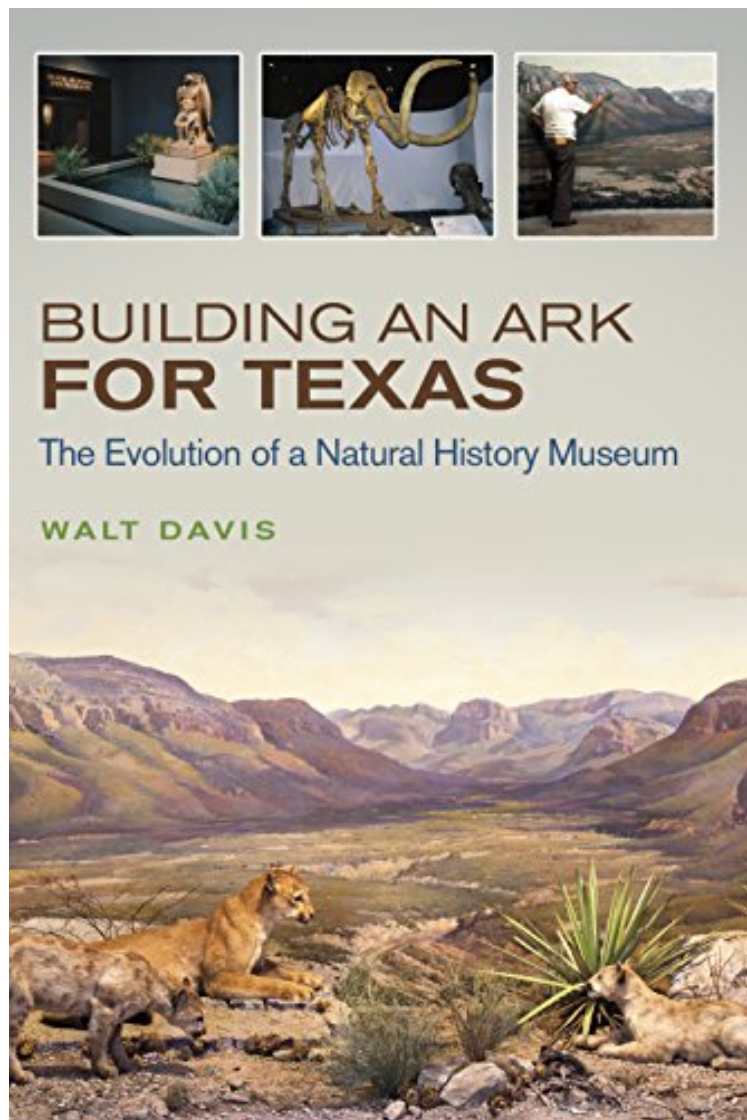


(Download free pdf) Building an Ark for Texas: The Evolution of a Natural History Museum (W. L. Moody Jr. Natural History Series)

Building an Ark for Texas: The Evolution of a Natural History Museum (W. L. Moody Jr. Natural History Series)

Walt Davis

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Walt Davis : Building an Ark for Texas: The Evolution of a Natural History Museum (W. L. Moody Jr. Natural History Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Building an Ark for Texas: The Evolution of a Natural History Museum (W. L. Moody Jr. Natural History Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. from the perspective of developing very good scientific displays of what the natural state was like ...By J. MatthewsMy wife and I have personal interests in Walt Davis' book. My wife's

father was Granville Bruce, one of the main artists who created the dioramas for the wildlife displays. Walt is a talented writer who brings to life the development of one of the unique historical museums in the country. Unfortunately, the museum has not been maintained as it should have been, which makes Walt's book even more important, from the perspective of developing very good scientific displays of what the natural state was like and will never be like again. It gave irreplaceable snapshots of the history of the land. Thanks, Walt. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book. By Customer We loved this book so much that we bought each of our five kids and a grand daughter one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cherished this. By David Landers This book was such a delight for me! Growing up in Dallas, some of my most vivid early childhood memories are of family outings to the Dallas Museum of Natural History; particularly of the magnificent life-sized dioramas there. It was just wonderful to reminisce about those experiences but also to learn how it all came to be. The story was more engaging and interesting than I had anticipated. Walt Davis's direct experience working at the museum over many years gives readers the sense that no one else would likely be more qualified to write the book about it. Besides his intimate involvement, the writing is pleasant to read; color pictures are frequent and relevant. Ark rarely feels like a history book, as Mr. Davis is able to invoke a personal touch that is funny at times and—surprisingly to me— even suspenseful and poetic. I was often amused at myself for being so engaged by a book about a museum! Note that Ark is about much more than the history of the DMNH: it's also about the history of Dallas and the state of Texas as a whole. The overarching message (of conservation) resonates well today and adds another layer of poignancy to it all. Thank you, Mr. Davis, for preserving this history, sharing it with us, and catalyzing this reminiscence down memory lane. I can't wait to get back to Dallas and see the museum in its current manifestation, but I do suspect I'll long for some more of the exhibits from the past.

Recounted through the eyes of a major participant, this book tells the story of the Dallas Museum of Natural History from its beginning in 1922 as a collection of specimens celebrating the plants and animals of Texas to its metamorphosis in 2012 as the gleaming Perot Museum of Nature and Science. The life of this museum was indelibly influenced by a colorful staff of scientists, administrators, and teachers, including a German taxidermist, a South American explorer, and a Milwaukee artist, each with a compelling personal investment in this museum and its mission. From the days when meticulously and skillfully prepared dioramas were the hallmark of natural history museums to the era of blockbuster exhibits and interactive education, Walt Davis traces the changing expectations of and demands on museums, both public and private, through an engaging, personal look back at the creation and development of one exceptional institution, whose building and original exhibits are now protected as historical landmarks at Fair Park in Dallas.

About the Author WALT DAVIS is former director of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas; former curator of vertebrate collections at the Dallas Museum of Natural History; and coauthor of the book *Exploring the Edges of Texas*. He lives in Campbell, Texas.