

Gillespie Creek Journal

My West coast friend Retta recommends reading the recent New York Times Bestselling book, **West With Giraffes** by Lynda Rutledge.

I found the book free on *Audible* and spent the next ten hours immersed in the fascinating tale.

The novel is based on the factual story of a young pair of Giraffes bound for San Diego, California in 1938. Caught in the devastating hurricane, the injured animals had to be transported 3,000 miles from the New Jersey harbor to their new zoo home.



Rothschild Giraffe Family of Lake Nakuru, Rift Valley, Kenya

Photo by Judy Appel

Engage Your Senses



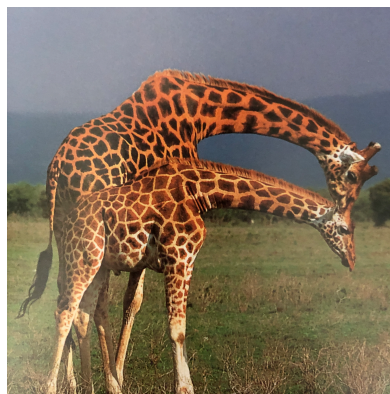
Masai Giraffe

Photo by Judy Appel



Reticulated Giraffe

Photo by Withers and Hocking



White Stockinged Rothschild Giraffe of the Kenya Rift Valley Island

Photo by Withers and Hocking

Nature's Treasures Abound

My Newsletter of April 21 brought so many comments from followers that it calls for a further look into the lives of the Giraffes of Island Camp, Lake Baringo, Kenya and the survival of their species.

The pictures to the left introduce the *Masai* and its two "subspecies" of *Reticulated* and *Rothschild Giraffes*. *Reticulated Giraffes* are commonly found in Africa as well in American zoos. They display defined markings which extend down into Giraffe's lower legs.

Elegant *Rothschild Giraffes* with white knee socked legs are unique to the Lake Baringo/Lake Nakuru island of the Great Rift Valley of Kenya East Africa.

Due to poaching and declining food supply, Rothschild's population had declined to 150 in 1979.

As you might have guessed all Giraffes sustain themselves by eating the top growth on trees. Their favorite meal is found on the iconic flat topped Acacia Tree.

My daughter Nancy and I learned when we hiked "Giraffe Island" that the now thriving Rothschild Giraffes (three females were pregnant) must be moved again due to the effects of climate change. The island's land acreage has declined with the unprecedented water level rise within the Rift Valley. At the same time the annual rainy season has become less reliable.



Moving a Rift Valley Island Giraffe

Photo by CNN

Experience Awe