

[Previous Story](#)[Next Story](#)

Article rank | 28 Oct 2014 | *The Record (Bergen County)* | By KARA YORIO STAFF WRITER

# A GLOBAL TREASURE HUNT

Franklin Lakes couple publish a book of their wildlife photos from every continent

The wild dogs repeatedly eluded them. The orcas were too far away and obscured by rain. The aardvark remains only a wish. Amy and Richard Lynn set out to see — and photograph — these animals and many more, but sometimes the wildlife and weather conditions don't cooperate.



"That's nature," said Amy Lynn. "It's all about the timing."

It's all about the hunt for the amateur photographers, animal lovers and passionate travelers. It's not good enough for the Franklin Lakes couple to spot the desired species on their journey. It doesn't count if they don't get a good picture of it, too.

"For us, it's very exciting," Amy said. "It's like a treasure hunt." More often than not, they have succeeded. The Lynns have traveled the world and photographed wildlife for more than 30 years and recently published a book, "The Sarcastic Lens," which is filled with their best animal photographs from their journeys to every continent, as well as their unique take on the animals, their trips and the world.

"We decided to take our best pictures and be funny," Richard said of the book's concept. "We're funny," Amy said. "That's our thing." "The Sarcastic Lens" — which is available at Bookends in Ridgewood and Wholesale Photo in Midland Park, as well as on Amazon — tries to walk the line between their personal story and what would be interesting to the public, Richard said.

In the end, "We wanted the book to be our legacy for our grandchildren," he said.

Amy, who is a medical technician at Valley Hospital, wants the book to get people off their couch and into

the world.

"We hope it serves as an inspiration," Amy said, adding that people don't need to have an Olympic athlete's physical stamina to make many of these journeys, nor does every trip cost an exorbitant amount.

"We understand we've been fortunate enough to do it, but we're not rich people," said Richard, a retired attorney.

Some of the places are luxurious, but others have no electricity or running water and the primary expense is the plane trip, they said. In all of the locations, fancy or amenity-free, the Lynns have tried to capture the best pictures of indigenous animals. They've photographed animals in Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Rwanda, Norway, Borneo, Indonesia, Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Brazil, Cambodia and Australia to name just a handful of their stops over the years. (The black bear pictures in the book were taken in their Franklin Lakes front yard.)

The couple travel with their two Nikon cameras, maybe three lenses — a 300, 400 and 500 mm — and the right attitude.

"You have to go with a sense of humor and patience," Amy said. "It's been an incredible learning experience."

She sounds disappointed and incredulous that people are often afraid to go to these places. She laughs at their warnings of trouble in their destinations. The Lynns have never had a problem, never even felt threatened or afraid, they insist. Their positive experiences goes beyond the animals and pictures, too. "We've met amazing people," Amy said. The Lynns' travel quests began with hitting all 50 states.

"We thought we should see our own country before we go see other countries," Amy said.

One day, Richard suggested going to Africa. "I said, 'You can do that?' " Amy recalled. "The world was different back then," said Richard. Going on an African safari at that time was "very odd, very unique."

They took that trip in 1985. It was the first to truly combine their mutual love of animals, travel and photography. They returned to New Jersey and dropped off rolls and rolls of film to be developed and excitedly viewed the results when they got them back.

The photos are digital now. There is no surprise — did we get the shot before the jaguar turned and ran? — when they get home. Amy just finds the best 500 and combines them with her "intensive" journal of the trip. A bookcase at their home holds all of their travel "stories" that act as a resource for friends heading off to the same locations. When the book idea came to life a year or two ago, they made a wish list of animals to photograph and set out to find them. The book is published now, but the couple don't plan to become homebodies, merely reliving their past by turning the pages. "We're only 61," Richard said. There is plenty more on their to do list — including a second book on the 100 greatest destinations around the world. They have 80 percent of what they need for that one.

There is also an animal book sequel in their plans as well, so trips serve a combined purpose — the Taj Mahal and tigers, for example, the Great Wall of China and pandas. They have a trip to Japan planned and then for their 40th wedding anniversary next August, they will celebrate by swimming with — and photographing — humpback whales in Tonga, an island near Fiji.



After each trip, they'll return home to Franklin Lakes, compile the photos and journal entries into another traveling tale, stick a pin in the map that shows everywhere they've been and start planning their next adventure.

This article was shared by a user of PressReader - an online source of publications from around the world. PressReader contains copyrighted material, trademarks and other proprietary information. Receipt of this article should not be interpreted as grant of any licenses express or implied, to the intellectual property of PressReader or publishers of publications presented. PressReader - Connecting People Through News PressReader, 200-13111 Vanier Place, Richmond BC V6V 2J1, Canada Phone: +1 604 278 4604 © 2003-2014 NewspaperDirect Inc. dba PressReader. All rights reserved. Terms of Use: [http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/showlink.aspx?pageid=ins\\_terms](http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/showlink.aspx?pageid=ins_terms) Privacy Policy: [http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/showlink.aspx?pageid=ins\\_privacy](http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/showlink.aspx?pageid=ins_privacy)

[Previous Story](#)

[Next Story](#)