

MADAGASCAR LIVE

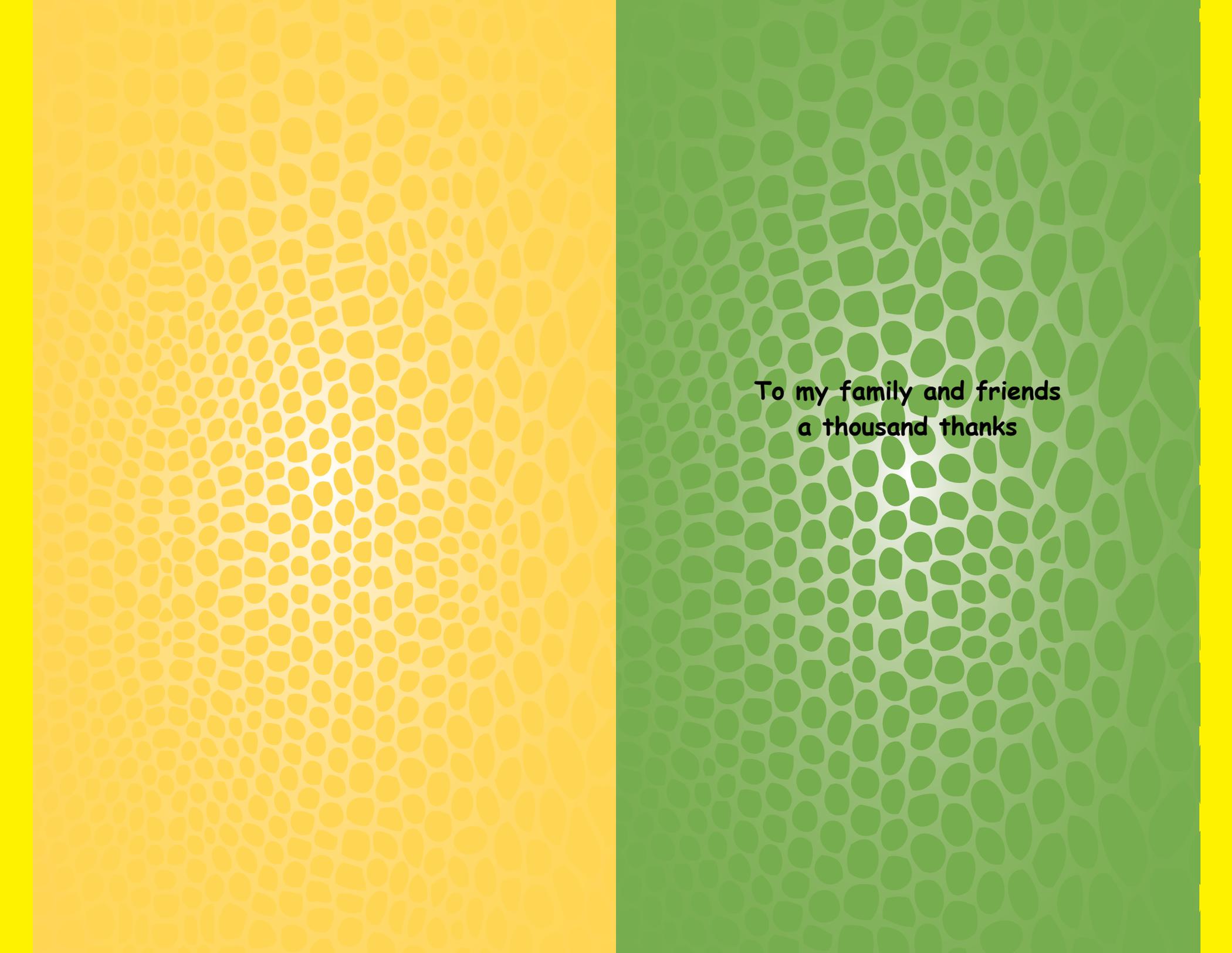
Volume 1

Children

Creatures

Culture





**To my family and friends
a thousand thanks**

It was on the thirty-first day of October two thousand and eleven.

ERIK “THE REPTILE GUY” took his first trip to Madagascar on a 747!

A 747 is a type of airplane.





He flew from
the **continent**
North America on
two planes that day.

To an island near
Africa that was very
far away!

con-tin-ent

A continent is a giant
land mass. There are
7 in the world.



The beautiful African island of Madagascar, that is!

It's the world's fourth largest island with **endemic** animals and many kids!

en-dem-ic

Endemic means it can only be found there.

More than 80% of the animals in Madagascar are endemic.



Erik was going there to visit on a very special quest.

To bring school supplies, teach science, and meet endangered species in the forest.

en-dan-gered

Endangered means not many left.

spe-cies

Species is a type of plant or animal of a special kind.

ANTANANARIVO



When the plane landed off to a city they would go.

It was a big city in Madagascar called **Antananarivo**.

CAN YOU SAY ?
AN-TANA-NA-RI-VO

Antananarivo
is the capital city of
Madagascar.



Dr. Pat



Jose



Ania



Benjamin



On that same day
he met great
new friends

Dr. Pat Wright,
Jose, Ania,
and Benjamin

RESERVE PEYRIERAS

The very next day they went to a reptile and amphibian zoo.

Dr. Pat said “Erik, **Peyrieras Reserve** is the perfect place for you!”



CAN YOU SAY ?
PEY-RIE-RAS

re-serve

A reserve is a
safe place for
animals to live.



MADAGASCAR TREE BOA



GOLDEN MANTELLA FROG



CROCODILE

The place was so awesome with snakes frogs and crocs.

There were also amazing lizards up in the tree tops!



WHERE
ARE THEY?

“Where?
Where are they?”
Erik said out loud.

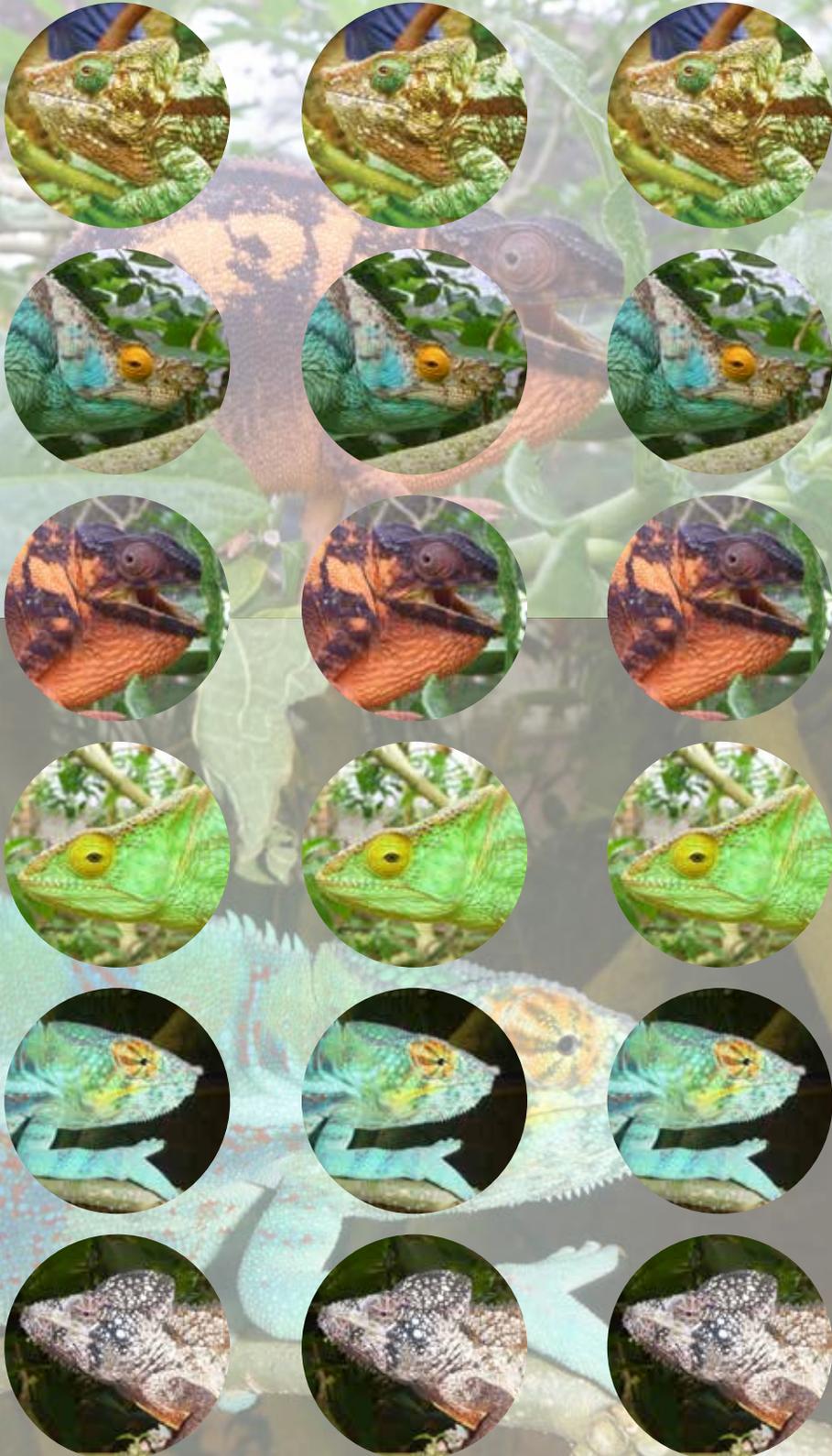
“Look there!”
Jose shouted.
“See them all
moving around?”



“I am looking at these branches but cannot see a thing.”

“Take your time, be patient,” said Jose. “These lizards are good at blending in.”

Erik kept looking with big wide eyes. Then he shouted “I see them!”



Clamped onto the
branches like giant
clothes pins . . .

were bunches
of colorful
camouflaging
chameleons!

cam-ou-flage
Camouflage means to
hide or blend in.



“This trip is fantastic!”
Erik couldn't calm down.

Blue, green and orange
lizards looked like
ornaments hanging all
around!

or-na-ments
Ornaments are
decorations that are
pleasing to look at.



And just when he thought the trip had reached its **peak** . . .

there was a giant chameleon playing hide-and-see!

peak

Peak means the very top or highest point.



Erik rubbed his eyes and looked again . . .

“Oh my goodness!”
He shouted.
“It’s the endangered
Parsons Chameleon!”



male

female

This is the first
Parson's Chameleon
Erik had ever seen!

The male is turquoise
and the female is
bright green!



It's also one of the largest chameleons in the world.

With a **prehensile** tail that's over one foot long when uncurled!

pre-hen-sile

A prehensile tail is one that can grasp things as though it's a hand.



Skype

Skype is an app that allows people anywhere in the world to see and talk to each other on their computers.

Erik couldn't wait to show this amazing creature to his friends in North America.

He fired up his laptop computer and said:

"It's time for our **Skype** session to begin!"

Erik showed his friends the chameleon's tail, skin, nose, and feet.

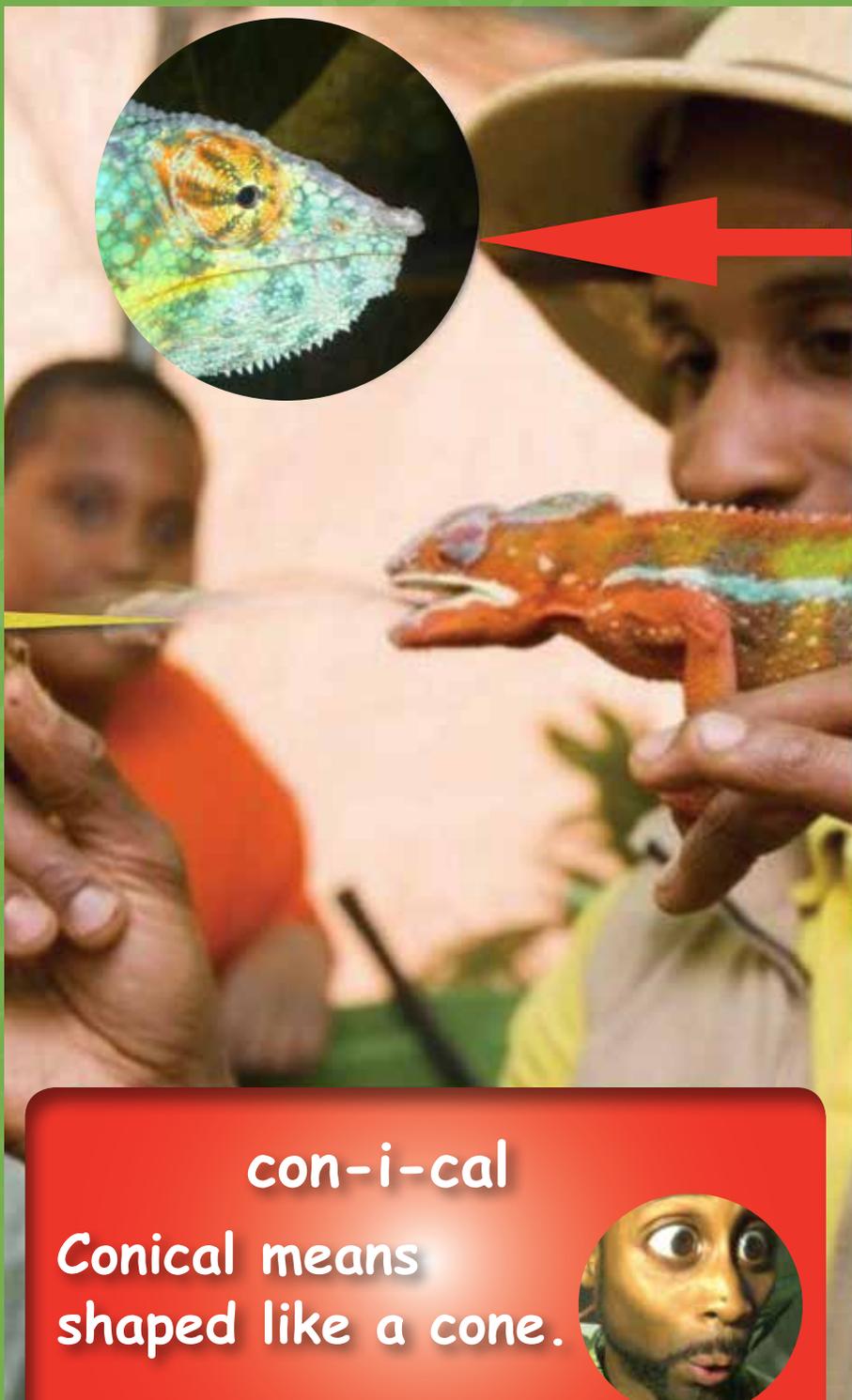
“Look! **Zygodactylus** hands that can grab a single leaf!”



zy-go-dac-ty-lus

Zygodactylus feet and hands are split and look like pigeon's feet





“Wow, check this out!
They even have
conical eyes . . .

and use a sticky,
projectile tongue
to catch insects by
surprise!”

con-i-cal

Conical means
shaped like a cone.



pro-jec-tile

Projectile means to
shoot out.



Erik and his friends shared many animals on the Skype session that day . . .

not knowing the amazing **edventures** that were coming their way!

Ed-ventures

Ed is short for education. A venture is a journey or trip.

MADAGASCAR LIVE GLOSSARY

A **747** is a type of airplane.

Antananarivo is the capitol city of Madagascar.

An **endangered species** is species that has a very low population and is in high danger of disappearing.

Madagascar is off the southeast coast of Africa is the fourth largest island in the world.

Dr. Pat Wright is a world-renowned primatologist and founder of Ranomafana National Park in Madagascar.

To **camouflage** is to hide or blend into one's surroundings.

Ranomafana is a town in Madagascar.

Zygodactylus hands and feet are opposite each other and sometimes fused together.

A **prehensile tail** can function to grasp things (usually branches) similar to the way the human hand does.

Conical eyes are cone-shaped eyes

A **projectile tongue** can shoot out to catch prey items.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

What type of plane did Erik fly in?

Is Madagascar an island or continent?

What is the name of the city where Erik's plane landed?

Name one of Erik's friends he met in Madagascar.

What is the definition of a reserve?

What are some of the animals that Erik saw at the reserve?

What type of lizard lives in tree tops?

What kind of tongue does this lizard have?

What kind of tail does this lizard have?

What kind of feet does this lizard have?

What is an Edventure?

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Please check out volume 2 to see
what animals pop up next!

Annnnd remember to always
follow your dreams and enjoy nature!



Erik's Reptile Edventures "Children, Creatures, Culture" nonfiction series introduces children to the world around them while building their reading skills with adventurous fun. Each book features photos from Erik's travels around the world and encourages people of all ages to follow their dreams and enjoy nature.

ERIK CALLENDAR is founder of Erik's Reptile Edventures, a wildlife education company that presents animal shows to thousands of people in the New York tri-state area and around the world. He is a graduate of Stonybrook University and a New York State-licensed veterinary technician.

See Eriks's videos at
WWW.WKCI.ORG

