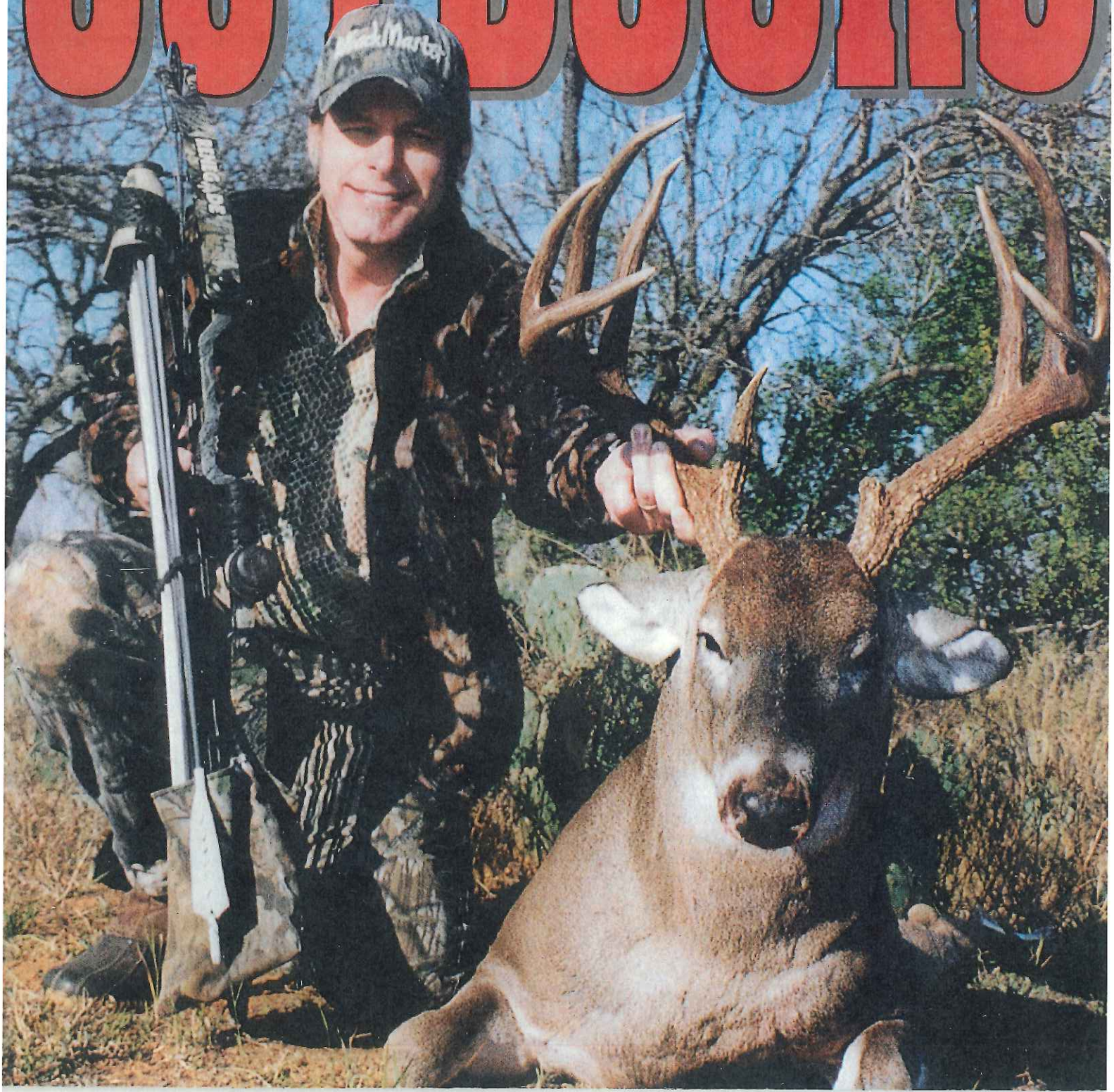


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Ted Nugent

ADVENTURE OUTDOORS





Kamp for Kids Korner

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Reese High Out-of-Doors Goes National!

When thinking of school, most think of dimly lit classrooms surrounded by multiple walls of concrete; a place where the only mention about the outdoors is sports and the winter road conditions. To the dismay of outdoor persons, this is quite true. Unknown to many, the classrooms may very well contain one, or more, students wishing they were in a ditch or a woods carrying their favorite fishing pole, shotgun, or bow. These are the select few that have been taught the method and importance of our outdoor heritage. Unfortunately, these individuals are surrounded at times by multitudes of ignorant "save bambi" students and teachers who don't understand or realize that going hunting and fishing is not only fun, but a necessity for the human race so we can continue to live without being run off the earth to the moon by four legged creatures. Schools need something for those on the cutting edge of wildlife conservation to participate in. Something that they themselves cannot only enjoy the benefits of, but can also educate others in the truth and reality that past and future generations need so badly.

Here at Reese High School in Michigan's thumb, we have created the Reese High Out-of-Doors club. Our motto is: To instill the respect, appreciation, and awareness of Michigan's Natural Resources, while promoting safe, ethical harvesting of wild fish, and game species. Our entire high school has just over 400 students, but our membership for the club has grown to 115 in seven years. How did we accomplish this?

It started with the initiative of a few teachers. First they received school board approval and then used a "create and they will come" philosophy. They announced the first club meeting and put a sign up sheet in our office. They held some simple meetings and took random nominations for the officers and board members. T-shirts with our new club logo and our new motto were immediately ordered to give a sense

of belonging and pride. Membership dues were created to pay for the shirt, and later for other materials. The fire for the club started when we became affiliated with MUCC and began to receive the Michigan Out-Of-Doors magazine. Currently we are also receiving another Michigan publication called Woods and Water News. Right now we are in the process of becoming affiliated with the Michigan Bowhunters Association. Occasionally, an organization will send the club sample materials to use or hand out to members.

Simple activities were also planned such as a trip to the local taxidermist, Outdoorama, guest speakers, deer hunting contest, and wild game dinner (attendance has grown to over 120 members and parents who dine on an assortment of game dishes—from raccoon to pheasant to exotic deer—brought by each family). For each event, every member had to have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian and possibly hand in a few dollars with their slip to cover extra costs. As interest increased, the need for more exciting activities became apparent. Some new activities were a canoe trip down our local Cass River, an Ice Fishing Trip, and a winter indoor archery league for the club and community (we can now accommodate over 30 archers at a time).

When Earth Day rolls around, it means a half a day of school. We band together and clean up our adopted 2 mile stretch of highway and also clean up three adopted state land parking lots. We have also adopted a 100-acre parcel of state land near our school. Part of it is carefully farmed (some crops such as corn are left entirely up or as stubble over the winter) and the other part has been sculpted into prime rabbit and pheasant habitat. As a club we have planted an assortment of groundcover plants and windbreaks in addition to putting up bluebird and purple martin houses. An increase in the pheasant population is becoming apparent and

the rabbits are multiplying faster than ever.

For extra funding, we occasionally apply for grants and do small fundraisers. Our reputation is growing and we have been named a beneficiary of multiple memorials.

One of our accomplishments has been an annual clay pigeon shoot for the club at our local gun club. The school finally consented after much talk about the safety. But the gun club is extremely safety oriented and of course there are no firearms allowed on school property, so we always meet there, and also an adult must accompany everyone under the age of 18.

To promote the outdoors with younger kids, we started a fishing fun day for our 4th graders. We spend a half day teaching them basic fishing techniques and then taking them to a club member's local pond and letting them fish (we supply the rods etc.) and eat hotdogs. They catch a lot of bluegill and some extremely nice sized bass. For most of these kids it is the first time they have ever fished, and it is really cool to see their eyes light up with excitement when they hook into their first fish! On Earth Day we also lead our 3rd graders through a nature trail behind the school and show them different trees, plants, animals and birds.

We have received recognition in the form of local newspaper articles, radio interviews, and in a segment for the Michigan Out-of-Doors TV show a few years ago. And now, thanks to Uncle Ted, we have just gone national!

If you are thinking of creating your own outdoors club, then do it. It may be a bit of work to get it started, but once it is established everything comes a lot easier. If you are a teacher, but don't want to have to do all the work, then keep your eye out for some students that are willing to take an active roll in molding our next generation into a pro-hunting, fishing, and conservation society.

-Jordan Seitz
President of Reese High Out-of-Doors Club

Alert! August Kamp for Kids Date Change!

Due to double booking at the Sleeper State Park camp site we must change our date to the following weekend: **AUGUST 22ND -24TH Caseville, Michigan**