

The Dirty Dozen of Monte Sano”–  
Severely Eroded and Disjunct  
“Mountain”  
of the Cumberland Plateau

“Soos Weber”  
Restoration Ecologist  
ALIPC Board Member

ALIPC Conference  
Monte Sano State Park Lodge  
May 20, 2014

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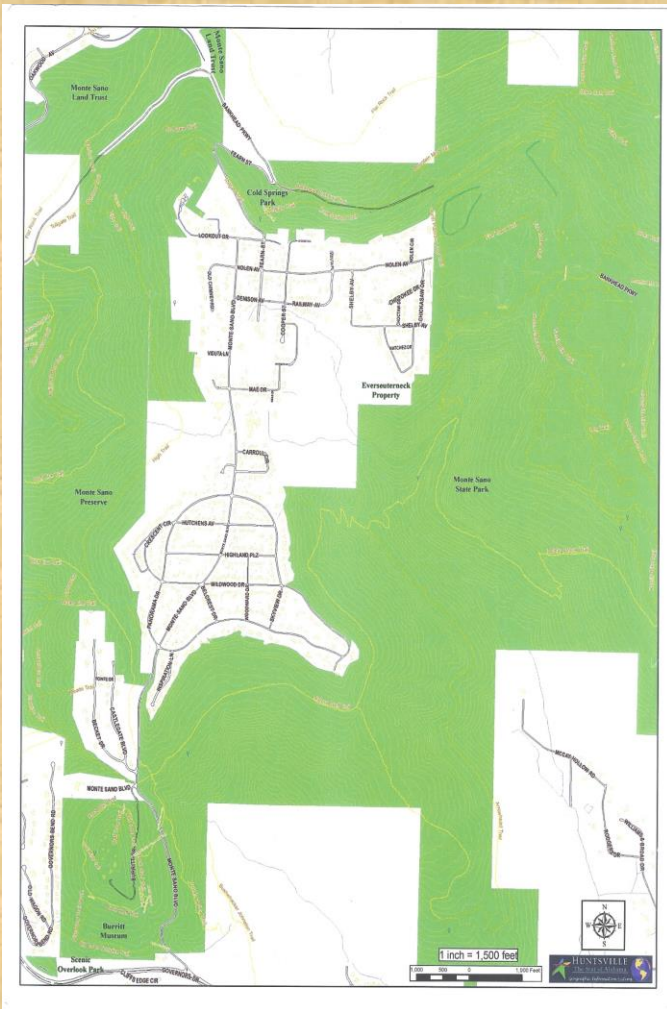
UGA58070

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## Southern Cumberland Mixed Mesophytic Forest

This is an ecoregion west of the Appalachian Mountains in the s. eastern U.S. The forests here are incredibly diverse, often containing remnant species from the time of the last glaciations. This area was a refugia of many plant and animal species that migrated south during the glaciations.



## The Mixed Mesophytic Forest







Kent Wilborn –Monte Sano State  
Park Manager—Entrance to  
Japanese Garden





Robert McClintock  
Eagle Scout and  
One of the 6 trailhead  
signs courtesy of ALIPC









*Lonicera fragrantissima*  
“Sweet Breath of Spring”  
One of at least 4 Bush  
Honeysuckles  
On Monte Sano





## Infestations of Bush Honeysuckle at Land Trust Parking Lot







**Robust Growth of Bush  
Honeysuckle and Wisteria**



Scenic Overlook at Top of Bankhead Parkway  
Look Closely to see Tree of Heaven





A photograph of several young Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima) saplings. The plants are characterized by their bipinnately compound leaves, which are mostly green but show a distinct reddish-pink coloration on the stems and the undersides of the leaflets, particularly on the younger growth. The background is a dense thicket of similar foliage, creating a lush green environment. The text "Tree of Heaven Saplings" is overlaid in white, centered in the upper portion of the image.

Tree of Heaven  
Saplings





Tree of Heaven Inflorescence  
And Fruit

One of Many Infestations  
Of Tree of Heaven on  
Monte Sano—80' tall. Will  
Bloom in late May





Infestation of Tree of Heaven  
In Cold Springs Natural Area







Wisteria (Chinese and Japanese)



Wisteria infestation on Bankhead Parkway—MS State Park











Volunteers battling  
Multiflora Rose  
And Wisteria  
On State Park Slopes





Multiflora Rose











Infestation of Privet, Bush Honeysuckle, Wisteria,  
Japanese Honeysuckle and Tree of Heaven





Wintercreeper



Oriental Bittersweet



Tree of Heaven  
Together with  
Royal Paulownia

US 431 on Monte Sano  
Has many infestations  
of  
Both Species















Mahonia or Oregon Grape



Nandina before flowering



Japanese Barberry—regrowth since January





Possible new Listing for Alabama's Invasive Plant List—Sweet Cherry





Bark of Sweet Cherry  
--a European Cherry







Seedling of Sweet Cherry  
"Prunus avium"



Chocolate Vine



English Ivy



Chocolate Vine mixed with Violets as groundcover







Trees Infested with  
English Ivey  
Oregon grape  
Chocolate vine



## So what are we doing on Monte Sano to prevent their spread??

- Conduct Invasive Species Round Up's –twice a year
- Workshop on Invasives –at least once per year
- Work with scouts to have more Eagle Scout Projects
- Write Articles in the Monte Sano Civic Association Newsletter
- In near future—form a CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area Involving the Land Trust, The State Park, and Burritt Museum, as well as the Monte Sano Civic Association