8-1-2009

International Outreach: The Southeast Prehistoric and Historic Landscapes Tour

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From April 26 to May 1, 2009, I led a group of seven international scholars on a 1,000-mile (1,500-km) tour of South Carolina and Georgia to encourage cross-cultural studies and collaboration in the region. My colleagues and I are members of the international research project, “Neolithisation and Modernisation of East Asian Inland Seas (NEOMAP),” funded by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto, Japan, that held a symposium at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 25, 2009. Participants in the tour included NEOMAP Director, Junzo Uchiyama (RIHN), Shinji Ito (Kokugakuin University, Tokyo), Keisuke Makibayashi (RIHN), Shinji Seguchi (Shiga Prefectural Cultural Properties Protection Association, Japan), Carlos Zeballos Velarde (RIHN/Peru), Ilona Bausch (Leiden University, Netherlands), and Alexander Popov (Far Eastern National University, Vladivostok, Russia).

In Georgia, the group visited Ocmulgee National Monument (Macon), Etowah Indian Mounds State Park (Cartersville), the Savannah Historic District, and Fort Pulaski National Monument. In South Carolina, they visited the Sea Pines Shell Ring (Hilton Head Island), Green Shell Enclosure (Beaufort County), Fig Island Shell Rings (Charleston County), Sewee Shell Ring and Clam Mound (Awendaw), Old Sheldon Church (Beaufort County), the Charleston Historic District and Charleston Museum, Middleton Place Plantation (Charleston County), the Congaree Vista District (Columbia), South Carolina State Museum (Columbia), and SCIAA (USC). Special thanks are extended to our friends and colleagues: SC Department of Natural Resources archaeologist, Sean Taylor, and the SC DNR management and staff; Robert Morgan, National Forest Service archaeologist, and staff of the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center; SCIAA Curator, Sharon Pekrul, and SCIAA hosts, Charlie Cobb and Terri Price.