

SAA 2008 Vancouver poster abstract

Fossil fungal spores in Crawford Lake, Ontario, linked to Iroquoian farming CE 1300-1500

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Canada Geese fed in Iroquoian cornfields and then roosted on Crawford Lake where they deposited dung pellets. In preserved pellets are concentrations of corn, bean, sunflower and squash pollen, weed seeds and spores of fungi, many of which cause crop diseases, such as corn smut, bean and corn rust. Did Iroquoians burn or abandon fertile fields because of a build up of fungal disease caused lower crop yields?