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MARY ANN SWETLAND  
CENTER FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

# The Swetland Scoop

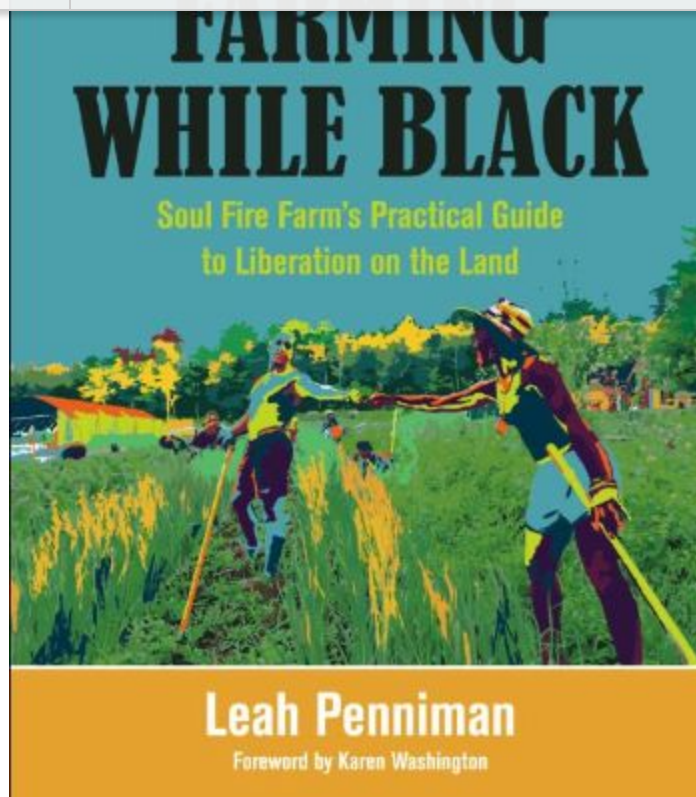
April 2021

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## News & Announcements

### Swetland Book Club Reminder!

It's not too late to sign up for [the Swetland Readers Book Club](#)! We invite you to join us as we grow and deepen our understanding of the complexities of racial and environmental health equity issues.



Our Spring 2021 book selection is **'Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on The Land'** written by Leah Penniman. This book comes highly recommended by Lena Boswell, a foodNEST 2.0 Core Modeling Team member and 2021 Food Systems Change Fellow.

**Register to Participate**

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### **'Association between ambient air pollution and county-level cardiovascular mortality in the United States by Social Deprivation Index' Accepted into the American Heart Journal**

Swetland Center's Darcy Freedman, PhD, MPH and Eun Kyung Lee, PhD, MPH collaborated with colleagues from the Harrington Heart and Vascular Institute at University Hospitals on a [recent publication](#). Their research sought to determine if neighborhood conditions modify the risk association between fine particulate matter air pollution (PM2.5) and cardiovascular mortality. Through this research, it was found that

notion that common environmental threats like air pollution have different impacts due to underlying variability in community settings. It affirms the need for community-specific approaches for advancing environmental health equity.

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*Be sure to keep up with Swetland news through our online [News & Events](#) page!*

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## Events & Opportunities

### April Swetland Seminar Series Presents: Social Determinants and the Opioid Epidemic in Ohio

April 27, 2021 | 9:00 – 10:00 am



Presenter Elisabeth D. Root, PhD is a Professor at The Ohio State University for the Department of Geography and the Division of Epidemiology. In this seminar, Dr. Root will discuss the HEALing Communities Study (HCS), which explores the impact of community-level social determinants of health on a variety of opioid-related outcomes and why having an understanding of community structure is

important for planning and evaluating the impact of substance use programs and policies. [Register here for the seminar!](#)

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### Restore Cleveland Hope Freedom Festival

The Cozad-Bates House, a historically significant underground railroad station and the only pre-Civil War structure still standing in the University Circle area, has been under construction and the new Underground Railroad Interpretive Center will be revealed soon. We hope you can attend the virtual opening and freedom festival, which

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## Helpful Resources

### Cleveland State University Mass Vaccination Clinic

Cleveland State University is hosting the first state-federal [Mass Vaccination Clinic](#) in Ohio at the Wolstein Center in downtown Cleveland. As of Monday, March 29th, anyone over the age of 16 is now eligible to receive the vaccine. If you need access to a vaccine there are two ways you can sign up for an appointment at the Wolstein Center:

- Call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH
- Visit the [Ohio Coronavirus Info](#) website

Please spread the word to help keep our communities safe!

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## Swetland Spotlight

### Swetland Center selected to participate in C.U.R.E.'s Facilitating Racial Equity Organizational Change

Over the past two months, we have been challenging ourselves to grow, learn and change the way we understand, discuss and act to dismantle racist structures that adversely affect the health and wellbeing of black and brown communities. We were grateful to be selected to participate in the [Center for Urban and Racial Equity's](#) Facilitating Racial Equity Organizational Change learning collaborative.

The objectives of this collaborative are to:

- Build shared language and analysis of institutional and structural racism and engage in critical reflection of how race and racism has

- changed our culture, strategy, and practices
- Plan and design our change process and align policies, practices,

programs and services with a deeper commitment to racial equity and justice

- Apply a racial equity organizational change framework
- Learn and practice equity-rooted facilitation methods we can use to support others in interrogating ideas about race, racism, and organizational behavior
- Identify strategies and next steps for integrating trainings, assessment, and action planning processes in our organization
- Develop relationships, collaborate and practice with peers, and receive coaching and guidance to address specific challenges facing our organization and racial equity team

Team members India Gill, MPH, Tim Ciesielski, ScD, MD, MPH and Rachael Sommer, LISW, MSSA are representing the center in this four-part series and are already applying lessons learned. Our first step was revising the Summer Internship curriculum. It now reflects a more intentional focus on racism and its impact on environmental health equity. With the help of our summer interns, we will also be conducting a listening tour with Swetland Center partners to gain feedback on our community engaged and racial equity practices. This will inform recommendations that will be incorporated in our broader action plan as a center.

We look forward to connecting with you further on this journey and seek your insights on ways we can more deeply commit to racial justice at the Swetland Center.



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