

SEARK Reading Council

Bradley – Cleveland – Desha – Drew – Lincoln

2010 – 2011 Officers

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Bayou Bartholomew, with a million-acre watershed, is the longest bayou in the world.

The Saline River is the last major undammed stream in the Ouachita Mountain drainage area.

SEARK Reading Council serves a five-county area in the southeast corner of the state, graced by the presence of two scenic and historically important waterways.

Bayou Bartholomew served as the major avenue for the transportation of timber and agricultural products in the landlocked interior Delta in the days before the railroad. The world's longest bayou, it twists and turns 359 miles through Jefferson, **Lincoln**, **Desha**, **Drew**, Chicot, and Ashley counties. The present bayou bed was formed two millennia ago by the constantly-shifting waters of the Arkansas River.

The Saline River meanders through Saline, Grant, Dallas, **Cleveland**, **Bradley**, **Drew**, and Ashley counties before it empties into the Ouachita River. In the 1890s, pearl fishing in the river became fashionable after a pearl was found in a mussel from the Saline. Mr. J.H. Hinemon, a professor at Arkansas Agricultural College in Monticello (now the University of Arkansas at Monticello), was among the best-known and the most successful devotees of this popular sport.

Like Bartholomew, SEARK Reading Council seeks a unique course, turning, changing, and continually on the move in pursuit of our mission to transport the gift of literacy throughout our area. Like the Saline, our Council is full of "pearls" – members who never cease to surprise us by their generous gifts of time, talent, and financial support, their steady devotion to our calling, their willing spirit, and their bright ideas.