

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

Rendezvous on the River

May 5 – 8, 2010

To kick off the opening of the 2010 season, Blennerhassett Island once again will be transformed on May 5 - 8 as it becomes the setting for the 22nd annual *Rendezvous on the River*. Sponsored by West Virginia Muzzleloaders Association and Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park, reenactors will present a living history of early frontier life.

What is a Rendezvous? A rendezvous is defined as a retreat, an appointment, or a place specified for a special meeting.

What is a living history? Living history is a dynamic form of interpretation available to those in pursuit of the past. It is a gathering of period personalities in an appropriate setting, i.e., village, farm, historic site, or encampment.

Frontier history will come alive on Blennerhassett Island with a primitive encampment recreating the old time rendezvous of the pre-1840 fur trade era. Mountain men donned in authentically reproduced buckskins and other period clothing will shoulder muskets, cook over open fires, and sleep in canvas tents, live in tepees or other primitive shelters. Family camp life, traditional craft work and traders will engage in activities that would have been typical to the early frontiersman. There will be hawk and knife throwing demonstrations.

We would like to share with you a rare glimpse into the past as frontiersmen and mountain men and women from across the nation gather at this special meeting place to observe how things were done over 150 years ago. Re-enactors will be available to answer your questions as you take travel back in time.

Boats going to Blennerhassett Island on Tuesday - Friday operate on an hourly basis from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Sunday the boats operate on an hourly basis from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. We recommend you go to the Island no later than 2:00 p.m. to allow ample time to visit the campsites. Boats depart the Island on the half-hour. The last boat leaves the Island at 4:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. (*depending on day of operation*). The round-trip cost of the boat ride is \$8.00 adults; \$7.00 children (3-12).

The boat departs from Civitan Park in Belpre, Ohio. The web address below provides written directions and maps references.

While on the island, visitors can purchase tickets to tour the Blennerhassett Mansion, take a horse-drawn wagon ride, rent bikes, make use of picnic facilities, browse in the island gift shop, and have lunch at the snack stand.

For more information contact the park office at 304-420-4800.
<http://www.blennerhassettislandstatepark.com/location.html>