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For Immediate Release:

Greenbrier Challenge Mountain Bike Race Scheduled for April 25; Maryland State Championship; Sponsored by Hagerstown-Washington County CVB

(HAGERSTOWN, Md.) – The Seventh Annual Greenbrier Challenge Mountain Bike Race is scheduled for April 25th at Greenbrier State Park. The race has been the top cycling event in the Mid-Atlantic region for several years. Past participants have come from across the United States, D.C., and Canada.

The Greenbrier Challenge, sponsored again by the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitor's Bureau and organized by Potomac Velo Club, will feature \$10,000 in cash and prizes. The first of four events in the USA Cycling sanctioned Regional Championships, the race's venue and organization has made an impression throughout the continent. The Greenbrier Challenge is part of USA Cycling's American Mountain Bike Challenge (AMBC) series as well as the official Maryland State Championship. It is now an Alison Dunlap Junior Olympic Mountain Bike (MTB) Series race and for the first time it is a Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship (MARC) series race. Most importantly, the Greenbrier Challenge is a USA Cycling (USAC) National Calendar Cross Country Race, with the top 15 riders in each of 48 USAC classes earning invitations to the U.S. National Championships, July 15-18, 2010, at Sol Vista Resort, Colorado.

Tom Riford is the President and CEO of the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, "We're very pleased that this annual race has grown to be a true marquee event over the last several years of competition. To have the Maryland Championship in Washington County is truly a feather in the cap for our community. The Convention and Visitors Bureau is thrilled to again be the presenting sponsor for this event. We are welcoming hundreds of competitors, plus supporters, families and fans to our county for this terrific event." The event is officially called: **The Greenbrier Challenge, Presented by the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau.** For more information, see: <http://www.potomacvelo.com/events/greenbrier/index.html>.

The Greenbrier course is challenging for Professional cyclists yet ride-able and fun for beginners. The setting makes for the perfect day-long or weekend family getaway at Greenbrier State Park. There are plenty of recreational activities to choose from including hiking parts of the Appalachian Trail, boating and fishing on Greenbrier's beautiful lake, and enjoying the park's top-notch facilities.

While creating a significant local economic impact, Riford also said that to have the mountain-bike championship race at a state park located in Washington County is a great example of the partnership between the Department of Natural Resources and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Hagerstown Hotel and Convention Center is the host hotel for the Greenbrier Challenge.

With two disciplines (cross country and endurance) and 51 classes competing for 99 podiums and over \$10,000 of cash and merchandise prizes, it takes a skilled and organized promoting organization to keep things running like clockwork year after year. The Potomac Velo Club has made its reputation by organizing some of the finest races on the East Coast, including the Greenbrier Challenge AMBC mountain bike race and the UCI listed Capital Cross Classic season-ending cyclocross race.

"Greenbrier is a race for the racers," said Jim Carlson, Race Director for the Greenbrier race. "We made it a National Calendar event so that the racers get narrower categories where they can achieve more against those in their own age group, many more USA Cycling points for each placing, and more in cash prizes. We try to balance it

so that almost everything goes back to the racers. We've also designed it to be a competition stepping stone between the local race series and the national and world level for our Mid Atlantic racers."

For additional information about the Greenbrier Challenge, go to the Potomac Velo Club website at www.potomacvelo.com. The movie "MAX VO2 The Potential Inside" filmed some segments at Greenbrier 2008. The release date for the film is Fall 2010. Visit the movie website www.maxvo2themovie.com to see the trailer and get more information!

The Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization whose mission is to help attract visitors to Hagerstown and Washington County. The CVB helps to create vibrant growth for the local economy by promoting, developing, and expanding the local visitor industry. For more information about Hagerstown-Washington County, see: www.marylandmemories.com.

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