

## PTOC Orienteering Event

### When – Saturday, March 24, 2018

-- **10:00am to 12:00 noon Registration and Starts.** If you want to do the Long course, you need to start by 11:00am to have a full 3 hours to complete the course.

--**2:00 pm Courses close** -- please report to the Start/Finish when you have completed your course, or by 2:00pm **AT THE LATEST**. Meet volunteers have been on site since 8-9am, and they would like to get the controls picked up and head home. 😊

### Where – **Bluff Woods Conservation Area**, 20 minutes SW of St. Joseph, MO

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/39.6370467,-94.9311542//@39.637291,-94.9311676,476m/data=!3m1!1e3>

Use the shelter/parking area off of Bethel Road.

### What – 3 courses: **Easy** (trails and marked route), 1.9 KM and 9 controls

**Medium** (intermediate-difficult), 3.5 KM and 9 controls

**Long** (difficult), 5.1 KM and 12 controls

Cost – the usual: \$10 non-member, \$7 PTOC member, \$2 e-punch rental, \$2 extra maps, \$1 compass rental, snacks included

Meet notes – This is a very hilly course, hence the name “Bluff” Woods. All courses have climb, since the shelter is located at the bottom of the first hill. And all courses cross a creek with water to start. The Easy course has a marked route with a very shallow crossing (you may be able to jump without getting your feet wet), the rest of you are on your own. Most of the other creeks in the park are dry.

It has been awhile since we have used this park and this map, and I have not had the time to update the map as much as I had wanted. Be prepared to rely on contours for a lot of the navigation. It seems that green X's were **root stocks**, and most have shrunk significantly. I am leaving the ones I haven't checked on the map, in case they help you in pinpointing where you are, but don't count on them being there. If the ones I have been to are still significant, I changed them to brown X's. **Ruined fences** are also hit or miss. I couldn't find many of them, but then after looking for 5 minutes I almost tripped on one I was looking for. I don't think many people travel on the **dirt paths**, so they are still covered with leaves. You'll often see the space between trees before you see the trails on the ground. Make sure you pay attention to pace counting and direction—sometimes the trail will disappear, but then reappear if you keep heading in the right direction and keep track of your distance. 😊 **Vegetation** is relatively accurate. The woods are mostly light green, but thankfully very few thorns and briars. There is one **out of bounds** area on the map—private property in the center of the Medium course. Please make sure you go around!

I haven't seen any rain in the forecast, so you shouldn't have trouble getting up and down the hills. It is a beautiful and challenging park, and you will definitely get a good workout. Hope to see many of you there!