

Greenville man, 77, and dog rescued after night in woods
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GREENVILLE - An older man who spent the night huddled in the woods with his dog was found by searchers Thursday morning in a swampy area about three-quarters of a mile from his home.

Robert Fenn, 77, was cold, stiff and sore, but he was able to walk on his own with his rescuers to the nearest road where transportation was waiting, Warden Sgt. Roger Guay said Thursday. Fenn was taken by ambulance to the Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital in Greenville for evaluation.

"He's doing fine," Ruth Fenn, his daughter-in-law of Greenville, said Thursday morning. "It's a happy Thanksgiving."

Fenn, who had moved to Greenville about a month ago, left his Wild Berry Lane home for a walk with Buddy, his golden retriever dog, at about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday. When the pair failed to return by late afternoon, Ruth Fenn notified the Piscataquis County Sheriff's Department. A ground search was conducted throughout the afternoon and night by wardens and their search dogs, police and volunteers. The Maine National Guard used its heat detection aircraft to search from the air for Fenn.

As the temperature hovered around 20 degrees overnight, wardens worked feverishly to find Fenn, who has medical problems and who was ill-equipped for the night air. Finn left his home wearing a hat, jeans, and a quilted flannel shirt, according to Guay.

On Thursday morning, as wardens scoured specific areas on foot, Warden Specialist Deborah Palman and her search dog found Fenn and Buddy sitting on a knoll near Mansell Brook at about 8:30 a.m.

"It's a very swampy area and quite thick," Guay said. Fenn had managed to stay dry, despite his wet surroundings, although his feet were damp, he said.

"He was kind of confused as to how he ended up where he did," Guay said.

Ruth Fenn extended her family's thanks to all who searched for her father-in-law and to those who offered support at home, including Scott MacMaster, Greenville's newest police officer, who spent the night with the family.