

# MESARD 2014 SEARCH REPORT

[www.mesard.org](http://www.mesard.org) for Unit information

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## SUMMARY:

Searches: 8

# of Days on Searches: 13.5

Hours in response: 995.5

Miles in response: 15,178

ALL SEARCHES ARE IN MAINE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

| Month     | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Callouts* | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   |

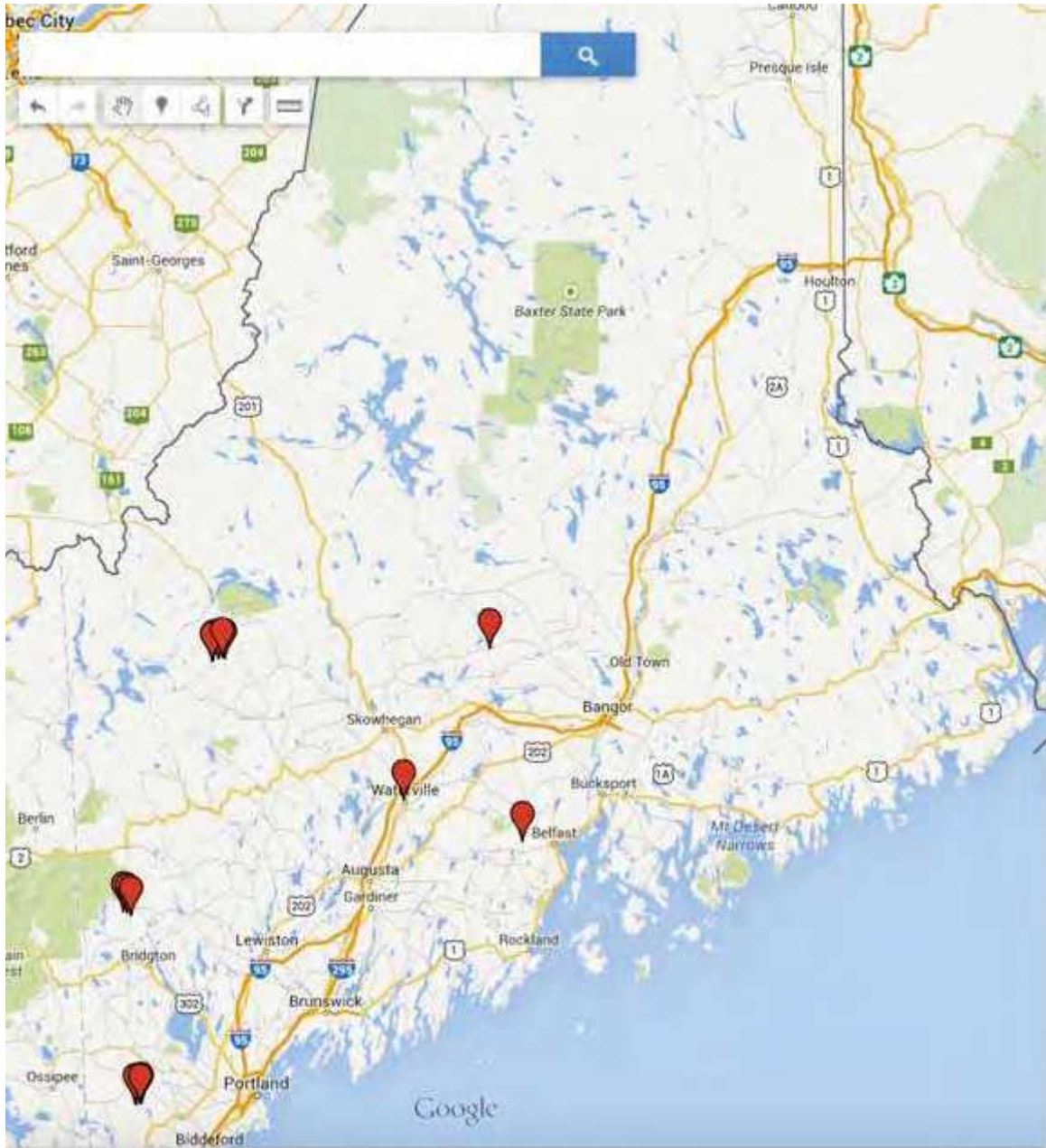
\*Multiple days counted for No. Waterboro (Dremsa), Waterford (Brennan), Rangley/Appalachian Trail (Largay) searches.

| Time of Day | 0600-0900 | 0900-1200 | 1200-1500 | 1500-1800 | 1800-2100 | 2100-2400 | 2400-0300 | 0300-0600 | Pre - Planned |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Callouts    | 3         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 1         |           | 1         | 1         | 3             |

| Subject types | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY       | JUN        | JUL        | AUG  | SEP     | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|------------|------------|------|---------|-----|-----|-----|
| Callouts      |     |     |     |     | A/C,<br>D | D,<br>CC/H | CC/H,<br>D | CC/H | LE/CC/H |     |     |     |

Suicide/despondent, Runaway, Water, Dementia/wanderer, Child, Cold Case, Autistic, Hiker, G hunter, M homicide, Fisherman, LE Law Enforcement support, Evidence, Water Search, Other

# SEARCH LOCATIONS 2014



## SEARCH LOCATIONS 2014

DATE: 09 - 14 May, 2014      LOCATION: **No. Waterboro, Maine**  
CALL OUT TIME: 05:30  
VICTIM: Jaden Dremsa, 15 year old male with autism, went missing near his home.  
OUTCOME: Child's body was recovered on May 17, cause of death was determined to be drowning.  
RESPONDING MEMBERS: Jim Bridge, Cindy Atwood, Paul Magoon, Ronda Luce, Sara Robinson, Elizabeth Fossett, Dan Pelletier, Leslie Howe, Jay Holweger, Greg Mantz, Deborah Palman, Michele Fleury, David Hudson, Melissa Shea, Dorothy Smail, William Nichols  
Total MESARD VOLUNTEER      HOURS      MILES      # of days:  
   **336 hours**      **5,766 miles**      **5 days**

**\*\* SEE ARTICLE AT END OF REPORT \*\***

DATE: 09 May, 2014      LOCATION: **Morrill, Maine**  
CALL OUT TIME: 0:35  
VICTIM: 60 year old female, mentally challenged went missing.  
OUTCOME: Subject was found at 2:30.  
RESPONDING MEMBERS: Paul Magoon (re-routed to No. Waterboro search)  
VOLUNTEER HOURS/MILES:      **3 hours**      **60 miles**      **0.5 days**

DATE: 03 June, 2014      LOCATION: **Dexter, Maine**  
CALL OUT TIME: 17:00  
VICTIM: Daniel Robichaud, Male 55 years old with dementia, went missing.  
OUTCOME: Subject was located by WS 17:33  
RESPONDING MEMBERS: Jim Bridge, Spencer Fuller (DO)  
VOLUNTEER HOURS/MILES:      **1.5 hours**      **9 miles**      **0.5 days**

**\*\* SEE ARTICLE AT END OF REPORT \*\***

DATE: 17 June, 2014                      LOCATION: **Rangeley, Maine**  
 CALL OUT TIME: Preplanned (06:00)  
 VICTIM: Gerry Largay, 66 y. o. woman hiker, missing off the AT in Rangeley.  
 OUTCOME: No new discovery, her body was not recovered.  
 RESPONDING MEMBERS: Jim Bridge, Jay Holweger, Deb Palman, Elizabeth Fossett, Leslie Howe, Michele Fleury, Melissa Shea

| MESARD VOLUNTEER | HOURS              | MILES             | # of DAYS    |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                  | <b>114.5 hours</b> | <b>1645 miles</b> | <b>1 day</b> |

**\*\* SEE ARTICLE AT END OF REPORT \*\***

DATE: 01 July, 2014                      LOCATION: **Waterville, Maine**  
 CALL OUT TIME: 18:00  
 VICTIM: Male, age 75 wandered off, due to imbalance in medications.  
 OUTCOME: Subject located by WS before 21:00, and transported to hospital.  
 RESPONDING MEMBERS: Paul Magoon

| MESARD VOLUNTEER | HOURS          | MILES           | # of DAYS       |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                  | <b>3 hours</b> | <b>75 miles</b> | <b>0.5 days</b> |

DATE: 07-09 July, 2014                      LOCATION: **Waterford, Maine**  
 CALL OUT TIME: 17:00  
 VICTIM: Ruth Brennan, age 77 woman with dementia, went for a walk and did not return to her family cabin near Five Kezar's Pond in Waterford.  
 OUTCOME: Subject found by MESARD team: Elizabeth Fossett & K9 Kobuk on 09 July, 2014 at 09:27, Ruth was alive and responsive.  
 RESPONDING MEMBERS: Paul Magoon, Elizabeth Fossett, Spencer Fuller, Cindy Atwood, Ronda Luce, Dave Hudson, Jim Bridge, Leslie Howe, Kelly Pontbriand, William Nichols, Deb Palman, Jay Holweger

| MESARD VOLUNTEER totals: | HOURS              | MILES              | # of Days:    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                          | <b>205.5 hours</b> | <b>3,137 miles</b> | <b>3 Days</b> |

**\*\* SEE ARTICLE AT END OF REPORT \*\***

DATE: 20 & 21 August, 2014    LOCATION: **Rangeley, Maine**

CALL OUT TIME: PREPLANNED (06:00)

VICTIM: Gerry Largay, 66 y. o. woman missing off AT since July 23, 2013.

OUTCOME: No new discoveries, and did not recover body.

RESPONDING MEMBERS: Jim Bridge, Elizabeth Fossett, Deb Palman, Leslie Howe, Jay Holweger, Ronda Luce, William Nichols, Melissa Shea, Dan Pelletier, Jake Letendre

|                          |                  |                    |               |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| MESARD VOLUNTEER totals: | HOURS            | MILES              | # of Days     |
|                          | <b>207 hours</b> | <b>2,702 miles</b> | <b>2 Days</b> |

DATE: 14 September, 2014    LOCATION: **Rangeley, Maine**

CALL OUT TIME: PREPLANNED (06:00)

VICTIM: Gerry Largay, 66 y. o. woman missing off AT since July 23, 2013.

OUTCOME: No new discoveries, and did not recover her body.

RESPONDING MEMBERS: Jim Bridge, Elizabeth Fossett, Deb Palman, Leslie Howe, William Nichols, Melissa Shea, Jake Letendre

|                          |                  |                    |               |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| MESARD VOLUNTEER totals: | HOURS            | MILES              | # of Days     |
|                          | <b>125 hours</b> | <b>1,784 miles</b> | <b>1 Days</b> |

## Waterboro boy's death ruled accidental, from drowning after hitting head

The 15-year-old whose disappearance prompted a massive search died after blunt force trauma, the medical examiner says.

BY DAVID HENCH STAFF WRITER [dhench@pressherald.com](mailto:dhench@pressherald.com) | [@MaineHenchman](https://twitter.com/MaineHenchman) | 207-791-6327

The 15-year-old Waterboro boy whose disappearance May 8 prompted a massive search died from drowning after hitting his head, the state Medical Examiner's Office announced Tuesday.

A spokesman for the medical examiner said an autopsy done Monday revealed that the cause of Jaden Dremsa's death was drowning with blunt force head trauma, and that his death was accidental.



Volunteers search the shoreline of Lake Arrowhead in North Waterboro for Jaden Dremsa on May 12. The teenager, who had been diagnosed with a mild form of autism, was last seen May 8. His body was found Saturday.

*Press Herald file photo/Shawn Patrick Ouellett*



A memorial service for Dremsa will be held May 31, his mother wrote on a Facebook page that was set up during the search. "We will never know what happened on May 8th. But that is the date of his death,"

Jennifer Howard posted on the Facebook page Help Find Jaden Dremsa.

"I pray that he did not know pain and that he did not suffer."

On Saturday, nine days after the teenager was last seen, his body was recovered from Lake Arrowhead in Limerick, not far from his home in the Twin Pines Trailer Park in North Waterboro. It's not clear how the Medical Examiner's Office concluded his death was accidental. The area where Dremsa was found has a grassy shore, though the current may have moved his body. Tree stumps are abundant in areas along the shore where clear-cutting was done before the Little Ossipee River was dammed to form Lake Arrowhead.

Mark Belserene, spokesman for the Medical Examiner's Office, referred questions about the manner of Dremsa's death to the Maine Warden Service, saying the doctor who did the autopsy was not working Tuesday. Cpl. John MacDonald, spokesman for the warden service, referred questions to the York County Sheriff's Office, saying that once a search is completed, the warden service is no longer in charge.

York County Chief Deputy William King said he had not reviewed the medical examiner's report so he did not feel comfortable commenting on that aspect of the case. Don Dremsa, Dremsa's grandfather, said he and other family members were searching in woods in Limerick when they got the news that a body had been found. "Those woods and that lake probably won't ever seem the same," Don Dremsa said. We'll always think about that." He said Jaden's parents were too overwhelmed to speak to reporters Tuesday.

The teenager, who had been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism, was last seen on the afternoon of May 8, when he told his family that he was leaving to go for a walk in the woods. He was later seen by a neighbor on the shore of the lake. Nine days later, his body was found near the lake shore in Limerick by a husband and wife in their pontoon boat. The couple waved down a warden service airboat that was in the area for the search and directed wardens to the body, which was floating in a few feet of water. The body was off an island a short distance from the lake's western shore, where the boy lived, said Don Dremsa, who wonders whether Jaden might have crossed to the island and then gotten disoriented.

When Jaden left his house that afternoon, he said he was going to take a walk and climb a tree. That raises the possibility that he fell from a tree and hit his head. "He's out exploring and may have slipped on something, and it sounds like that's probably what happened," Don Dremsa said. "I know he liked to play on the rocks. ... It was kind of damp that night, pretty easy to slip if you're jumping on the rocks."

Don Dremsa recalled that when Jaden was younger and they went raking blueberries in eastern Maine, Jaden went exploring on a big rock pile. His grandmother asked him what he was doing. "He said 'I'm planting memories,'" Don Dremsa recalled. Jaden liked playing guitar with his brother, Dremsa said, and the two were taking lessons. "They were like twins," he said. "His brother was two years older, kind of his caretaker. You didn't see one without the other."

A memorial will be held at 4 p.m. May 31 at Lakeside Community Church, which provided headquarters for the search. On several days, more than 100 volunteers were involved, as well as several state agencies and church volunteers who served donated food and drinks. The church even moved its Sunday services on May 11 so it wouldn't disrupt the search. "I truly believe that Jaden had a hand in bringing this community together somehow. In his kind and quiet way," his mother wrote on Facebook. "Thank you again for all the kind words and prayers, and thank you for sharing your memories of Jaden."

*David Hench can be contacted at 791-6327 or at: [dhench@pressherald.com](mailto:dhench@pressherald.com) Twitter: [@Mainehenchman](https://twitter.com/Mainehenchman)*

*Link to article: [http://www.pressherald.com/2014/05/20/medical\\_examiner\\_\\_waterboro\\_boy\\_accidentally\\_hit\\_head\\_\\_drowned/](http://www.pressherald.com/2014/05/20/medical_examiner__waterboro_boy_accidentally_hit_head__drowned/)*

# Missing Dexter man found on local tote road

By [Dawn Gagnon](#), BDN Staff

Posted June 03, 2014, at 6:44 p.m.

DEXTER, Maine — A 57-year-old local man [who was reported missing Tuesday morning](#) has been found, a Penobscot County emergency dispatcher has confirmed. Daniel Robichaud, who has dementia, was found about 5:30 p.m. sitting on a bench along a tote road off Route 7, according to Richard Bowie, operations director for Down East Emergency Medical Institute, which participated in the search along with the Dexter Police Department, Maine Warden Service and Penobscot County Sheriff's Office, among others. Robichaud was taken to the hospital to be checked out, Bowie said.

Robichaud was reported missing by his family Tuesday morning. Dexter Police Chief Kevin Wintle said. He last had been seen at a function at the Ridge View Community School before he wandered off, according to Wintle. The Maine Warden Service had an aircraft fly over the area as part of the effort to locate the missing man. A dog tracking team from the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office also assisted in the search, Wintle said.

*Bangor Daily News writer Ryan McLaughlin contributed to this report.*

*Link to article:* <http://bangorinsider.com/missing-dexter-man-found-on-local-tote-road/>



Friday June 20, 2014

# Portland Press Herald

NEWS

Posted June 18

## Maine search resumes for hiker missing nearly a year

Geraldine Largay, 66, was last seen at an Appalachian Trail lean-to in Franklin County.

The Maine Warden Service resumed its ground search Tuesday for Geraldine Largay, a 66-year-old Tennessee woman who disappeared while hiking the Appalachian Trail in Franklin County nearly a year ago. Largay, of Brentwood, Tenn., was last seen on the morning of July 22 at the Poplar Ridge lean-to in Redington Township.

### ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



Deborah Palman, president of the Maine Association for Search and Rescue Dogs (MESARD) and formerly with the Maine Warden Service, searches with her dog Raven for missing hiker Geraldine Largay on Tuesday in Redington Township.

*Photo courtesy of Maine Warden Service*

### ADDITIONAL IMAGES



Geraldine Largay and husband George are pictured at the Ramsey Cascades in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in this photograph posted to Geraldine Largay's Facebook profile in April 2013. *Contributed photo via Facebook*

**ATTENTION  
SPORTSMAN**



**If you come across items that you feel may be connected to the disappearance of Geraldine Largay, last seen on Appalachian Trail 7/22/13, please:**



**DO NOT COLLECT or DISTURB these items.**

**Instead provide any or all of the following:**

- **GPS coordinates**
- **mark or flag area and provide details of location**
- **Photos of items**

**Please call Maine State Police  
624-7076**

The Maine Warden Service distributed this last year seeking additional information about missing Appalachian Trail hiker Geraldine Largay. *Press Herald file*



Search: This photo taken Saturday, July 20, 2013, in Sandy River Plantation at the intersection of Route 4 shows Geraldine Largay in the rain jacket that she would likely have been wearing in the rain on Tuesday, July 23. *Photo courtesy of Maine Warden Service*

**Link to article:** <http://www.pressherald.com/2014/06/18/search-resumes-for-maine-hiker-missing-since-last-july/>

**Link to article below:**

[http://www.pressherald.com/2013/10/01/husband\\_offers\\_\\_15\\_000\\_reward\\_for\\_information\\_on\\_missing\\_maine\\_hiker/](http://www.pressherald.com/2013/10/01/husband_offers__15_000_reward_for_information_on_missing_maine_hiker/)

**RELATED HEADLINES**

**[Husband offers \\$15,000 reward for information on missing Maine hiker](#)**

It was the first time the Warden Service, which is leading the investigation, has searched on the ground this year to look for Largay. Aircraft searches have been underway since early spring, according to Cpl. John MacDonald of the warden service.

The Warden Service was still gathering information and evidence from searchers, including state police, federal Border Patrol officers and the Maine Search and Rescue Association, who were out Tuesday; although MacDonald said Wednesday it is unlikely to lead to any breaks in the case.

McDonald said that the weather and dangerous terrain around the trail have played a role in determining the search schedule. About 500 people are reported missing in Maine each year, and almost all of them are found within 24 to 48 hours, according to the Warden Service. It's not uncommon for hikers to get lost on the Appalachian Trail – 281 miles run through Maine – but it is unusual for a hiker not to be found.

As the one-year anniversary of her disappearance approaches, the Warden Service will continue to search for her, although no dates have been set yet for future searches, said MacDonald. A friend of the family who has been in contact with Largay's husband, George, said they hope the search will continue.

"The family is holding it together the best they can," David Fox of Nashville said Wednesday. "They miss Gerry very much and they're trying to find ways to honor her in continuing the search but also moving on with what they have to do day to day." Largay was last heard from on July 21, when she sent a text message to her husband saying she planned to meet him in Wyman Township, about eight miles north of the Poplar Ridge lean-to where she was spending the night. Another hiker, who was heading south on the trail, reported seeing her at the lean-to. But when Largay didn't arrive at Wyman Township her husband reported her missing.

Largay began her hike in April 2013 in West Virginia. She'd gone about 950 miles and was about 200 miles from her destination, the summit of Mount Katahdin, when she disappeared. Largay is 5 feet, 5 inches tall, weighs about 115 pounds and was last seen wearing a black pullover shirt, tan pants and a blue hat, and carrying a black-and-green backpack. A \$15,000 reward is being offered to anyone who can provide information leading to her location. Those with information are asked to call the Maine Warden Service at (207) 624-7076.

## MWS IFW press release 7-9-2014:

### K-9 team credited with finding missing South Portland woman



Maine Warden Service

Elizabeth Fossett (left), her canine Kobuk and Ruth Brennan in photo after Fossett and her canine located the 77-year-old Brennan in Waterford on Wednesday morning. Brennan had been missing since Monday.



**Maine Warden Service:** Map of the search area containing the camp at which Brennan was staying, the point last seen on Jewett Pond Road, and the point where she was located.

On Wednesday morning, 77-year-old Ruth Francis Brennan of South Portland was found alive in the woods of Waterford. According to the Maine Warden Service, K-9 handler Elizabeth Fossett and her German shepherd Kobuk located Brennan at 9:27 a.m. in a heavily wooded area close to Brennan's camp. The team from Maine Search and Rescue Dogs, which is associated with the Maine Association for Search and Rescue, were searching an area assigned to them by the Maine Warden Service. Brennan was alert and in relatively good health for having been missing since Monday morning, approximately 48 hours, according to Maine Warden Service Corporal John McDonald.

Brennan was brought out of the woods by wardens and search personnel and reunited with her family at Waterford Fire and Rescue and transported to the hospital for evaluation, he said. Brennan was found approximately 1.25 miles from the point she was last seen on Monday. She was also about 1.25 miles from the camp at which she had been staying. The search effort including several agencies and departments to include the Maine Warden Service, Oxford County Sheriff's Department, Maine State Police, Air National Guard, MASAR search volunteers, MESARD canine teams, Maine Forest Service, Mid-Maine Equestrian horseback teams, and Baxter State Park Rangers. In total, 146 people were involved in the search.

[Link to press release published by the Maine Wardens Service:](#)

# Missing South Portland woman found safe after two-day search

Ruth Brennan, 77, who has dementia, is reunited with relatives after a rescue dog finds her in dense woods in Waterford.

BY DAVID HENCH STAFF WRITER [dhench@pressherald.com](mailto:dhench@pressherald.com) | @MaineHenchman | 207-791-6327

A South Portland woman who had been missing for nearly two days in Waterford was found alive Wednesday morning by a search-and-rescue dog and his handler. Ruth Brennan, 77, was located in dense woods about a mile and a quarter from where she had last been seen at 10:30 a.m. Monday. She seemed in good health and smiled as she spoke with joyous family members before being taken to a local hospital by ambulance, said Cpl. John MacDonald of the Maine Warden Service.

Brennan was found by Elizabeth Fossett and her German shepherd Kobuk, members of Maine Search and Rescue Dogs. “I just was exhilarated when she raised her head and said, ‘Yes, I’m Ruth,’ ” recounted Fossett, who lives in York with Kobuk.

Brennan, who has dementia, had been staying with family at a camp they rent every year. She was last seen walking toward Melby’s Market & Eatery on Route 35 in the Oxford County town of Waterford. She was found safe in the woods at 9:27 a.m. west of Jewett Pond Road.

The search involved 115 people – including 27 game wardens – with another 31 supporting the searchers, MacDonald said. It included crews on foot and a helicopter equipped with infrared equipment. Fossett and Kobuk initially joined searchers at 8 p.m. Monday and continued until after midnight. They were back at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, searching all day into the evening. After two days, searchers may get concerned that a missing person might not be OK, MacDonald said. “You think about the worst-case scenario,” he said. “The weather was on our side and she was in relatively good health for her age. Things worked out really well.”

On Wednesday, Fossett and Kobuk arrived at 7 a.m. and received GPS coordinates from the Maine Warden Service for her area of responsibility, Fossett said. “Sometimes it’s just the luck of the draw – you’re given an assignment in an area where the person happens to be,” Fossett said. “We were given information she

was a power walker, and the likelihood she was pretty far away (from where she was last seen). They gave me an outer perimeter assignment.” Kobuk is an “air scent” dog, meaning he searches off-leash with his nose in the air and investigates when he catches a human scent. Such dogs tend to be used in outer-perimeter search areas to reduce the number of times they detect another searcher.

“Tracking” dogs, by contrast, will follow or search along the ground for a particular person’s scent, usually on a lead held by their handler. Just before 9:30 a.m., Kobuk caught a scent. Search conditions had improved, with a steady breeze blowing smells toward him from as far as a half-mile away. Fossett saw the dog catch the scent and take off running to investigate. “I call him the Ferrari of the woods. He’s fast,” she said. Kobuk wears a GPS device on his collar so Fossett can keep track of him. When the dog returned, he gave a trained bark indicating that he had found someone, and was then rewarded with a toy. Fossett gave a second command for the dog to show her the source of the scent, and found Brennan when she came down off a ridge into a low-lying area of dense growth. Fossett gave her water and snacks, and radioed the warden service command post with the coordinates of their location.

The warden service sent a helicopter overhead, and eight to 10 wardens carried Brennan out to get medical attention. Fossett said it felt great to help find someone who was missing and reunite them with their family. “We all train hard for it,” she said.



Maine Warden Service photo: Rescuers carry Ruth Brennan out of the woods in Waterford after she was found Wednesday morning.

*The Maine Association for Search and Rescue (MASAR) is a non-profit organization that promotes and develops search and rescue resources for the state of Maine. MASAR provides training and certification for search and rescue volunteers using nationally-recognized standards. See [mainesearchandrescue.org](http://mainesearchandrescue.org) for more information. MESARD is associated with MASAR and includes certified canine search teams from Maine. Please visit [MESARD.org](http://MESARD.org) for more information.*

**Link to article:**

<http://www.pressherald.com/2014/07/09/missing-south-portland-woman-found-alive-after-two-day-search/>

# Family 'overjoyed' Wardens find woman in Waterford

Speaking on behalf of the family, Maryjane Johnston said everyone was "overjoyed" to find Brennan safe. Brennan, Johnston said, was more concerned that wardens were overworking themselves and scratching their trucks than about herself.



Christopher Crosby (photo)

Maryjane Johnston stands in front of members of Ruth Frances Brennan's family Wednesday afternoon, hours after Brennan was found alive after she was missing for two days in Waterford.

Article published in the SunJournal, by staff writer Christopher Crosby on July 9, 2014