Trail maintenance, like hiking, is still putting one foot in front of the other but Neal feels both have become safer and thus more rewarding by the emphasis on training, equipment and co-operation. He especially enjoys the comradery of the trail crews. The most challenging task he has done with CMC was rebuilding the Pink Beds boardwalk. In Virginia his favorite hike is the Apple Orchard trail just off the Blue Ridge Parkway at MP 75. It is the highest point on the AT in Virginia and the site of a small World War Two military camp. Daniel Ridge Loop is his favorite trail in North Carolina.

Recognizing that trail maintenance, like thru hiking the AT, is not for everyone - Neal does suggest that once or twice in their lives everyone should go out with a trail crew. CMC has six different trail work crews - pick one or two and join us!! Not only along the AT corridor and in the Pisgah Forest region but widely known elsewhere, the Carolina Mountain Club trail work crews are the best!