

Howard Marklein: Rural road safety for fall color tours

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Throughout the year, I represent one of the most beautiful districts in the state, but it is absolutely gorgeous in the fall. The leaves are changing and our landscape is becoming a tremendous portrait of colors and autumn activity. Roadside produce stands, blooming mums and pumpkin patches welcome us to enjoy the season.

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism maintains an interactive Fall Color website where you will find the best places to view autumn colors throughout Wisconsin: <https://www.travelwisconsin.com/fall-color-report> This site indicates the percentage of the county that has changed and offers suggestions for places to visit.

The Department has also created “Selfie Stands” in a number of locations for visitors to take photos of themselves overlooking particularly gorgeous views. The Selfie Stands include a stand for your phone and sometimes a frame to capture a great picture.

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There are Selfie Stands at a number of locations in the 17th Senate District. You will find one at Governor Dodge State Park at the Enee Point Picnic Area, Nelson Dewey State Park in Cassville, Wyalusing State Park in Bagley, the Lower Wisconsin River in Muscoda and Buckhorn State Park in Necedah. #ScenicWisconsin

As you take in the fall colors and drive the countryside, please be aware of the farm vehicles that share our roads. Farmers are working hard to bring in their crops and prepare their fields for winter.

It is important to know that it is unlawful to pass a farm vehicle in a no passing zone no matter how slow the farm equipment is going. You must wait for a broken line or passing lane before passing farm equipment. This is for your safety, the safety of other drivers and the hardworking farmer who is operating the machinery.

It is also important to remember that you must turn your headlights on in inclement weather. We have some very foggy mornings in rural Wisconsin and operating your headlights is extremely important when we have reduced visibility. Even if you have daytime running lights, it is important to turn on your true headlights so that your tail lights are also on for drivers approaching you from behind.

As we enter a transitional season of the year, I hope you will join me in enjoying the beauty of our rural landscape this fall with safety in mind. Our communities look forward to welcoming you to enjoy autumn in rural Wisconsin.

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— *Marklein, R-Spring Green, represents the 17th Senate District.*