

## **COUPLE SCARES UP FUN AT GEAUGA LAKE'S HAUNT**

**AURORA, Ohio** (Sept. 14, 2005) – Gary Ulmer and June Preston live normal lives... during the day that is. But when night falls, the couple terrifies guests at Geauga Lake's Halloween Haunt beginning Sept. 23.

For the last two years, Gary and June have been responsible for the success of Big Top Terror and Phobia, the haunted houses at the Haunt. They also play a vital part in creating the design and theatrical make-up behind the actors in the two houses. But this love of the scariest holiday didn't start at Geauga Lake – it's been a life-long passion.

According to the Gary and June, a love for Halloween is not something that can be taught, it's something innate. Both remember that even as children, Halloween was their favorite holiday.

Gary and June started out in the Halloween business dressing as characters for various haunted houses in the area. Eventually, Gary gave the designers ideas for the haunted houses they were building. And when he met June, they both began designing their own. Before long, constructing haunted houses became a paying job.

Though some people may think that a haunted house is easy to pull off with a few black lights and scary costumes, Gary and June prove that it is a job that takes a lot of time, dedication and inspiration.

"But believe it or not, we still work regular jobs during the day," said June. "A lot of people are surprised to hear that."

By day, Gary is a prosthetic technician and June is a day care teacher.

"During the day we help people, at night we scare them," Gary laughed.

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Almost everything in their lives stems from a love of the haunted holiday – including their home.

“On the outside our house looks normal, but the inside is a bit different,” June explains.

Different collectibles are placed throughout the house, including a suit of armor that looms in the living room. Instead of a typical back porch, Gary and June have a deck designed to represent a pirate ship deck, complete with a large steering wheel, skulls and a pirate flag.

The couple sites their nightly dreams as the inspiration behind many of their creative ideas and concepts.

“We don’t sleep too much,” smiled June. “But when we do, we have a lot of nightmares!”

It’s terror-ific fun at Geauga Lake’s Second Annual Halloween Haunt every Friday night, Saturday and Sunday Sept. 23 – Oct. 30. During the day, it’s fun with trick-or-treat, costume contests for the kids and Snoopy and the PEANUTS™ gang in their very own pumpkin patch. But as night falls, fear comes to life in two spooky haunted houses, one freaky fright zone and a nightmarish ferryboat worth a ride. For more information on Geauga Lake’s Halloween Haunt, please call (330) 562-8303 or visit [geaugalake.com](http://geaugalake.com).

Geauga Lake is owned and operated by Cedar Fair LP, a publicly traded partnership listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “FUN.” In addition to Geauga Lake, Cedar Fair owns and operates six other amusement parks, five waterparks and one indoor waterpark resort.

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