

GENE LAREW WORM

As for baits to tie onto that line, on the big side check out the foot-long worm from Gene Larew! The El Salto Grande is named for a famous south-of-the-border bass lake where largemouths grow huge and it takes a big bait to tempt them, but this soft plastic worm should work equally well to fool southern bass AND northern pike. The El Salto also earned its name from the stuff it's impregnated with: a combination of salt and Crave, a proven fish-attracting additive Larew concocted that is actually cooked into the worm when it's being made, so it never washes off. You can buy ten of the foot-long worms for about \$5.50, and they come in a dozen colors in everything from basic Buenas Noches (basic black) and Tequila Sunrise (think of the drink) to Montezuma's Revenge (a color I don't want to think about...).



TRILENE LINE

A brand new Trilene is available this season to spool onto your reel: Berkley Trilene Maxx combines the castability of the popular Trilene XL with the toughness of the XT version of Trilene to create a premium multi-species line for freshwater game-fishing. The new Trilene Maxx comes in breaking strengths of 2-, 4-, 6-, 8-, 10-, 12-, 14-, 17-, 20- and 25-pounds in 300-yard filler spools to 3000-yard bulk spools. Touted as "the best Trilene ever" you can try a filler spool for anywhere from \$10.50-\$11.50 depending on the strength you desire.

X-CAP

My favorite find at the new tackle show wasn't tackle at all, but a cap that solves a problem I have when fishing. I need reading glasses to tie knots, study a chart or do anything that requires close-up eyesight. That means I'm always switching between my polarized sunglasses and my reading glasses over the course of a fishing day, and in the process one or the other gets misplaced, lost or dropped overboard even when I try to keep them on a Croakie or other round-the-neck sunglass tether. The Xcap actually incorporates a retractable tether into the cap, a thin-diameter cord that keeps glasses snugly above the bill or over your eyes. The strap can be tucked away or removed altogether when not being used to hold sunglasses or reading glasses or when the cap needs washing. At \$20 the Xcap is a great deal, a great idea and a find that was worth the price of a long weekend in Vegas alone. That and the loose slots and showgirls (the slots were loose, not the showgirls...).