Now is the time of year when rivers and creeks containing smallmouth bass are running low and clear.

One of the most effective techniques to target these creek bass is a popper/dropper combo.

Cast this combo next to boulders or in shady areas. Let the popper sit for a few seconds then pop it. Fish the popper as both a topwater fly and as a strike indicator. This setup allows fishing on top and a few inches under water at the same time.

**THE POPPER-DROPPER RIG**

- Tie a size 4 or 6 cork or foam bodied popper to your tippet.
- Tie 18 to 24 inches of tippet to the hook shank of the popper and tie an unweighted, or very lightly weighted, size 6 or 8 rubber legged nymph (or bushy nymph like a wooly bugger) on as a dropper.