

## Cooper Boone

Cooper Boone is a perpetual learner, constant doer, a renaissance man who has reinvented himself over and over again, each time embracing life with a passion that's contagious.

Boone's house sits on seven acres in Forestburgh, NY, a small town in Sullivan County, where the Neversink River enters the Neversink Gorge and flows over High Falls. There, Boone and his husband, Mark Veeder, are raising three-year-old twin girls, Crosby and C.C.

They also own a farmhouse built in 1866 across the river in Shohola, PA, where 39 chickens graze the land. This is the very house where the two were introduced by fashion producer Lynne O'Neil. They rent it out for lavish parties (complete with event manager) or to people seeking a high-end country retreat.

That might be enough activity for most modern-day couples, but no, this couple gives a whole new definition to the word *busy*.

Boone, who hails from Minnesota, has a doctorate in clinical child psychology and practiced in NYC for over twenty years.

Boone, the "foodster," studied cooking at the French Culinary Institute and the Institute of Culinary Education. He has made guest appearances on several television shows, including the *Paula Deen Show*, and contributed to *Country Living Magazine* for 10 years with "Cooper's Kitchen."

Then there's Cooper Boone, country music singer and songwriter. He's cut three studio albums, received numerous industry accolades and appeared to crowds at the likes of Bethel Woods, Joe's Café, Paula Deen's Live touring show, the Blue Bird Café and, most recently, on the ABC televised "Nashville Christmas Celebration," along with Gavin Degraw, Kelly Clarkson and many other notables.

In 2015, Boone put on "Cooper Boone in the Catskills—Sideshow" at the Forestburgh Playhouse. The show raised money for St. Jude's Research and Autism Speaks and was sold out.

Mark Veeder is the horticulturist in the family. After having his beloved green variety of echinacea tested by a lab, he co-founded a skin-care line, Farmacy Beauty, that sells to QVC and Sephora, internationally. His Green Envy plant is loaded with natural antioxidants and is now patented.

One to never let the moss grow under his feet, Cooper Boone has embarked on a new venture. In 2016, he bought a building on Front Street in Port Jervis, NY, which has spurred a rejuvenation or as Boone likes to call it, a "rejuvenation" of the town.



The massive upstairs loft of Foundry 42 is outfitted as a community space in which he has his network of people coming to town to host music and lecture series, chef demonstrations, yoga classes and creative kids' activities.

The main floor boasts an eclectic mix of coffee bar with house-baked treats and salvaged decorative art selections, a metal furniture line produced by Boone and his business partner, metal smith Victor Salib, and a funky, eclectic, sophisti-kat feel.

Cooper Boone—entrepreneurial spirit, man on the move.

**What would be the one food you'd bring to a desert island?**

Popcorn. Don't judge. It's my most favorite food.

**What are you most proud of?**

My husband. He inspires me with his relentless spirit and ability to fearlessly create.

**What do you regret?**

I don't have feelings of regret. I really try to learn from my failures and successes to improve on myself.

**What's your favorite song?**

Angela Kaset's "Letter from God."

**How do you relax?**

Relaxing is something I struggle with. I have this strange sense of urgency in my life in that I'm very aware of how life is so very finite. I have a perpetual need to live as much as I can before the clock stops. ●