Meet Gwynne Basen “farmer Gwynne” owner of Abbondanza Greenhouse, gardens and education centre located in the Eastern Townships; a 148 acre historic hill farm first settled over a hundred years ago. Gwynne’s agricultural/horticultural practice has always been guided by her activist commitment to strengthening and protecting agricultural biodiversity, creating a safe, sustainable and equitable food system.

Award winning film maker and writer by trade; Basen is one of the founding members of the Mansonville Farmers Market, which she now manages. Every Saturday from 9am to 1pm (May 26 to October 6) the Market (located on the Round Barn site) encourages all to support local producers and features fresh local products, handicrafts, music, a café and a community info booth.

Besides working her farm, managing the market and involving herself in many community initiatives, Gwynne makes the time to organize a variety of workshops and information sessions celebrating gardens, the growing season and healthy living.

“My work at Abbondanza allows me to connect my garden to the world,” explains Basen. “This has always been my vision for this farm and what I do here.”

Gwynne’s most recent information session is entitled, “Mushroom Growing for Everyone.” The workshop will be led by native Eastern Townshippers, James Lamoureux. James has been growing oyster mushrooms for years now and loves to share his passion for mushrooms with anyone who will listen.

“Producing your own mushrooms can be easy and fun and this workshop will start you on the path to your successful growing adventure,” says Basen. The workshop will take place on Sunday, July 8th from 9:30am to 1pm. The cost is $40.00 and includes a jar of mycelium to take home. For more details or to register, call 450-292-0732 or visit www.abbondanza.com

A variety of workshops, sessions and helpful information is being offered by Basen and others. Checking her site often is the best way to find out what is happening. Many of her workshops are advertised through the Potton Municipal site as well, www.potton.ca If you have an interest in gardening, growing and learning positive ways of working your land, frequenting workshops offered by or through Basen is a positive step in building your knowledge on the topic.

This month it’s mushrooms! Who knows what farmer Gwynne will offer next?