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Happy New Year, gardening friends. I'm sorry to be a few days late wishing you happiness and health for 2012. As with all good intentions, sometimes they take a little while to come to fruition?especially with the kids home from school. A three hour Horse-O-Poly marathon takes precedence over planned writing time, especially when you're quite certain that in a few, quick years?the horse lover will balk at spending New Year's Day in PJs with her parents and little brother. We've got to snatch those moments now, while we can, and store the memories away for when her angst-filled teen years arrive.

So, did you make any resolutions? I admit, I'm attempting a few changes:

Bravery.

Wellness.

Patience. (Which I wish would hurry up and get here, already!)

Bravery might seem like a strange resolution. But I've realized lately that there are so many things I've been wanting to do?kayaking, horseback riding, growing my business, writing?that I need to force myself to get out of my comfort zone. It's time to shake things up, because I don't want to live with regrets.

The bravery resolution took a major hit this week, much to my chagrin?and Peter's relief.

There is, of course, a back story:

A year ago, I attended the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's annual conference, which was amazing. I enrolled in a workshop about growing mushrooms.

Let me tell you?Tradd Cotter from Mushroom Mountain is brilliant. Part genius scientist, part environmentalist, part fabulous entertainer, part magician...who knew mushrooms could be so fascinating?

Naturally, on the adrenaline high of Tradd's presentation and armed with recently purchased shiitake plugs, I decided it was time to add mushrooms to the list of edibles we grow.

Really, how hard could it be?

To learn how you, too, can grow mushrooms, please visit <http://growingdays.blogspot.com> [1]

Image (optional):

