

Julia here.

While at the New Hampshire Sheep and Wool, I saw a few lovely little things I thought you'd like to know about.

One: Silversmith and Friend to Fiber Artists (an unofficial title), Leslie Wind, has just created silver and bronze darning needles in three sizes. They are lovely to behold, and quickly inspire a mental flipping of the WIP file for a sweater in need of finishing. These, the small size, are about 3 inches long. [Here's Leslie's site](#) for more information.



Two: these baskets from [The Children's Initiative](#), a non-profit that supports health care in developing countries. Made in Vietnam, the sale of these baskets supports the organization's good works. Their value to knitters is, I think, immediately obvious. I saw people leaving with multiples.



Three: a new book, [Fiber Gathering](#), by Joanne Seiff, has been enjoying attention on a virtual blog tour recently, and Joanne was at the festival on Sunday to sign copies and answer questions. The book is a loving tribute to why we wool lovers gather, explains with enthusiastic prose and beautiful photographs the merits of each of the major regional festivals, offers a primer on some aspects of wool love that are the province of fiber festivals (such as fleece skirting and washing), and has 25 projects to get your needles going. Check it out, and catch festival fever.

