

## PEAR TREE POLARIS SMALL CAP FUND

**FOR THE QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31, 2026**, the Pear Tree Polaris Small Cap Fund's Ordinary Shares (the "Fund") outperformed its benchmark, the Russell 2000 Total Return Index (the "Index"). The Fund had a return of 3.00% at net asset value compared to 0.89% for the Index.

### Market Conditions and Investment Strategies

Information Technology ("IT") and Energy sectors contributed most, with defense-related names providing an additional tailwind in the wake of the Iran war. Biopharmaceutical holdings weighed on results, while Industrials and Consumer Discretionary lagged.

In IT, MKS Instruments had double-digit sales across semiconductor, advanced packaging, and photonics end markets. Arrow Electronics and Avnet both beat consensus as the electronics distribution industry recovered from the 2023–2024 inventory correction, with stabilizing orders and improving lead times. Among Industrials, V2X saw investors rotate into its defensive profile, bolstered by a \$100 million classified national security contract and Amazon smart tech account wins. Ennis Inc. reached a 52-week high on steady organic and acquisitive growth, with the CFC Print & Mail integration proceeding smoothly. CVR Energy and Diamondback Energy benefited directly from firmer oil prices.

Other highlights: Lundin Mining capitalized on tight copper supply and strong performance at its Caserones mine, while the Vicuna joint venture bolstered the long-term growth outlook. Perdoceo Education beat expectations on organic enrollment growth, with a recent acquisition adding further momentum. Ingles Markets continued its margin recovery from a prolonged post-COVID trough, with activist engagement helping to improve governance and asset utilization.

Among detractors, SLM Corp faced pressure from rising student loan delinquencies, though its partnership with KKR should free up capital for buybacks and reinvestment. RV manufacturer Winnebago faced thin dealer inventory, softer demand, and elevated oil prices. Acuity Brands disappointed on flat organic growth in its lighting segment especially in non-residential construction. In Health Care, Amphastar Pharmaceuticals reset on softer glucagon and epinephrine pricing and volume shortfalls. Harmony Biosciences faced generic competition. While the IT sector produced some of the winners for the quarter, it also housed a number of the worst performing stocks. Progress Software reported solid results but was not immune to broader software derating. ePlus posted good earnings, but investors projected fewer enterprise deals in 2027.

### Portfolio Changes

We profited off our investments in Abercrombie & Fitch and American Eagle Outfitters, selling within a year on strong same-store sales recoveries. The potential for fundamental deterioration and/or unfavorable macro trends underscored our preemptive sales of Maximus Inc., Evertec Inc. and Graphic Packaging. We initiated a position in HNI Corp., an office and residential furniture manufacturer in the process of integrating its Steelcase acquisition; commercial real estate recovery and return-to-office trends underpin this investment thesis.

### Outlook

The quarter began on solid footing, but the mood shifted in March as the Iran conflict fed into inflation and growth concerns. The high-end consumer, driving the K-shaped recovery and GDP growth, showed early signs of fatigue, while corporates reduced headcount on AI efficiencies. Against that backdrop, the portfolio's defensive tilt — education, Consumer Staples, Utilities and Defense-adjacent names — proved its resilience. We are also eyeing Consumer Discretionary companies, where dislocations offer an entry point before an eventual consumer rebound. ❖

## TOTAL EXPENSE RATIOS\*

	Gross Expense Ratio*	Net Expense Ratio*
Ordinary Shares	1.42%	1.42%
Institutional Shares	1.20%	1.08%
R6 Shares	1.07%	1.05%

\* Per Prospectus dated August 1, 2025, as amended. Reflects all fee waivers currently in effect. Fee waivers may not be amended, rescinded or terminated before July 31, 2026 without the consent of the Fund's Trustees.

## A WORD ABOUT RISK

Small company stocks may trade less frequently and in a limited volume, and their prices may fluctuate more than stocks of other companies. Small company stocks may therefore be more vulnerable to adverse developments than those of larger companies. The Fund may invest in issuers in the real estate industry. Changes in real estate values or economic downturns can have a significant negative effect on these issuers. The Fund may invest in foreign issuers that trade on U.S. stock exchanges. These issuers may be subject to special risks including different corporate governance rules and bankruptcy laws.

### Investment Products

■ Not FDIC insured ■ May lose value ■ No bank guarantee

## PEAR TREE POLARIS SMALL CAP FUND PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS

as of March 31, 2026 (The portfolio is actively managed. Holdings and weightings are subject to change daily.)

### Top Ten Holdings

Percentage of total net assets	
25.8%	
2.7%	Laureate Education, Inc.
2.7%	Lantheus Holdings, Inc.
2.6%	Northeast Bancorp
2.6%	Ingles Markets Inc.
2.6%	The Bank of N.T. Butterfield & Son Limited
2.6%	V2X, Inc.
2.5%	Black Hills Corporation
2.5%	BOK Financial Corporation
2.5%	South Plains Financial, Inc.
2.5%	Perdoceo Education Corporation

The companies mentioned in the commentary on page one have the following percentage of total net assets as of 03/31/2026:

2.4%	Ennis Inc
2.4%	CVR Energy
2.3%	Diamondback Energy
2.3%	ePlus
2.2%	Avnet
2.1%	Arrow Electronics
2.0%	SLM Corporation
1.9%	Acuity Brands
1.4%	HNI Corporation
1.3%	Winnebago
1.1%	Harmony Biosciences
1.0%	Lundin Mining
0.9%	Amphastar Pharmaceuticals
0.6%	Progress Software

## PERFORMANCE

as of March 31, 2026

### Average Annual Total Returns at Net Asset Value

	Unannualized		Annualized			
	Q1	Calendar YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Ordinary Shares	3.00%	3.00%	14.51%	11.02%	6.35%	8.15%
Institutional Shares	3.05%	3.05%	14.92%	11.43%	6.74%	8.54%
R6 Shares	3.09%	3.09%	15.45%	-	-	-
Russell 2000 <sup>1</sup>	0.89%	0.89%	25.73%	13.05%	3.77%	9.88%

<sup>1</sup>The Russell 2000 Index is a market capitalization-weighted index of 2,000 small company stocks. It is widely recognized as representative of the general market for small company stocks. Index returns assume the reinvestment of dividends and, unlike Fund returns, do not reflect any fees or expenses. You cannot invest directly in an Index. For comparative performance purposes, the beginning date of the Index is 08/03/92.

Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than performance data quoted. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. For the most recent month-end performance, visit the Fund's website at [www.peartreefunds.com](http://www.peartreefunds.com).