VT DE LISLE AMERICA FUND

Monthly Commentary

August 2025

Aug 2025		Fund			S&P 500 Index	
		Performance	Inception to date		Performance	Inception to date
		YTD	*ITD*		*YTD*	*ITD*
2005		**+14.01%**	**+14.01%**		**+4.78%**	**+4.78%**
2006		**+16.91%**	**+33.29%**		**+13.62%**	**+19.05%**
2007		**+4.06%**	**+38.70%**		**+3.53%**	**+23.25%**
2008		**-47.99%**	**-27.86%**		**-38.49%**	**-24.18%**
2009		**+42.74%**	**+2.97%**		**+23.45%**	**-6.40%**
2010		**+24.94%**	**+28.65%**		**+12.78%**	**+5.57%**
2011		**+1.79%**	**+30.96%**		**0.00%**	**+5.56%**
2012		**+24.17%**	**+62.61%**		**+13.41%**	**+19.71%**
2013		**+42.96%**	**+132.46%**		**+29.60%**	**+55.15%**
2014		**+3.92%**	**+141.59%**		**+11.39%**	**+72.82%**
2015		**-2.10%**	**+136.51%**		**-0.73%**	**+71.56%**
2016		**+31.95%**	**+212.07%**		**+9.54%**	**+87.93%**
2017		**+13.43%**	**+254.00%**		**+19.42%**	**+124.42%**
2018		**-20.44%**	**+181.65%**		**-6.24%**	**+110.42%**
2019		**+27.60%**	**+259.39%**		**+28.88%**	**+171.19%**
2020		**+16.17%**	**+317.49%**		**+16.26%**	**+215.28%**
2021		**+35.18%**	**+464.37%**		**+26.89%**	**+300.07%**
2022		**-10.54%**	**+404.87%**		**-19.44%**	**+222.29%**
2023		**+20.33%**	**+507.49%**		**+24.23%**	**+300.38%**

	MTD	YTD	ITD	MTD	YTD	ITD
2024		**+9.78%**	**+566.90%**		**+23.31%**	**+393.62%**
Jan 2025	**+2.58%**	**+2.58%**	**+584.10%**	**+2.70%**	**+2.70%**	**+407.04%**
Feb 2025	**-7.08%**	**-4.68%**	**+535.68%**	**-1.42%**	**+1.24%**	**+399.82%**
Mar 2025	**-5.17%**	**-9.61%**	**+502.80%**	**-5.75%**	**-4.59%**	**+371.06%**
Apr 2025	**-0.43%**	**-10.00%**	**+500.21%**	**-0.79%**	**-5.31%**	**+367.47%**
May 2025	**+7.72%**	**-3.05%**	**+546.54%**	**+6.15%**	**+0.51%**	**+396.23%**
Jun 2025	**+6.70%**	**+3.45%**	**+589.91%**	**+4.96%**	**+5.50%**	**+420.84%**
Jul 2025	**+1.64%**	**+5.14%**	**+601.22%**	**+2.17%**	**+7.78%**	**+432.13%**
Aug 2025	**+8.00%**	**+13.56%**	**+657.31%**	**+1.91%**	**+9.83%**	**+442.27%**

In August the Fund rose 8.00% and the S&P500 rose 1.91%. Sterling holders were up 5.39% as the dollar fell from $1.321 to $1.353. We beat all indices except the Russell Microcap which was +9% and is coming back from a long way down. Value was better than growth and the worst was the NASDAQ 100, which was just +0.95% as big tech was used as a source of funds to participate in a broader rally.

We had two big up days: August 12th, on a slightly weaker Consumer Price Index, and August 22nd, on Fed Chairman Powell's Jackson Hole speech. The link is that both raised expectations of an interest rate cut in September. The consequence is we reached a new dollar high and have moved ahead of the S&P500 for the first time this year. We have a positive linkage with interest rate cuts because of our overweighting in consumer durables and dollar weakness beneficiaries.

All sectors of the Fund were strong. There was a revival of low P/E, as fear of recession recedes. All energy was strong on AI considerations. We continue to say that since the turn in April we are in the best part of the market, as we were from November 2020 to May 2021. We still feel this and so continue to keep minimal liquidity. Top ten holdings pushing performance were Build-A-Bear (earnings, again), Mr Cooper (interest rate effects on mortgage provider) and MasterBrand (merger with American Woodmark). However, the strength was throughout our 180 holdings.

We've made most money in catching long-cycle turns. Our two largest holdings, Build-A-Bear $60 (bought at $5 in December 2020) and Cameco $77 (bought at $10 in 2019) are also our biggest wins. These two comprise 10.4% of the Fund but were already top ten holdings by the summer of 2021. They are similar. One was bought at the bottom of a mining cycle, with its mine flooded from 2008 to 2014 and the uranium price anyway too low for profitable production. The other was bought at the bottom of the toy cycle, with all its stores closed through lockdown and the company priced to follow ToysRUs to failure. In each case they passed a Ben Graham type sum of the parts analysis, with a couple of extra assumptions about the future of uranium and stuffed bears. The set-up is rare because the company needs to be strong to withstand the storm and the market needs to be unable to see the long-term possibility. Recently we've identified our next turn: solar. Green stocks have collapsed since their post-pandemic boom but solar continues to grow, unapplauded. We just have to identify Peak Trump and we buy. We won't get such a bargain because the industry is solid but sentiment is pleasingly poor. This month we sold our four Permian or Canadian oil and gas producers on long-term supply considerations. We just need to find the steadfast conservative management required to get through the low.