

# BEGONIA CHATTER



<p><b>Astro Branch</b>  <b>American Begonia Society</b>  <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i>  <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i>  <i>(713) 686-8539</i></p>	<p><i>Next Meeting:</i>  <b>DATE:</b> May 21, 2017  <b>TIME:</b> 1:00 PM  <b>PLACE:</b> Home of Tom &amp; Peter  <b>PROGRAM:</b> Annual Spring Picnic</p>
<p><b>MAY 2017 ISSUE</b></p>	<p><b>www.begoniahouston.org</b></p>

## ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

The May 21, 2017 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the Home of Tom Keepin and Peter Lloyd, located at 4513 Randwick Drive (in Northwest Houston at 290 and Mangum Road). There are driving instructions and a map at the end of this publication. This will be our monthly meeting/Annual Spring Picnic. The event will start at 2:00 P.M. but members may start arriving between 12:15 and 12:30. Kathleen Murphy Refreshment Chair will arrive early to help Tom get the kitchen ready to receive your goodies. The plan is for everyone to come and relax in the spacious garden, eat delicious homemade food and enjoy chatting and laughing with our begonia friends. In addition to your donation to the menu members are asked to bring plants or plant related items to donate for the Door Prize drawings. It is not necessary to wrap your door prize, but if you would like it to be a surprise you are free to wrap it or conceal it in a brown paper or decorative bag. There are garden benches and folding chairs (available for seating). Members are free to bring

their own favorite lawn chair for their sitting comfort.

This Picnic will be a Pot Luck affair, water and iced tea will be provided. If you would like to drink soft drinks please feel free to bring them with you.

Kathleen Murphy is our Hostess Chair and she may be contacted at 281-890-3323 or by email at [kathleemurphy4959@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathleemurphy4959@sbcglobal.net). If you haven't already please contact Kathleen to let her know that you will be attending (bringing a guest(s)?) and what you wish to bring to complete the menu.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this event. There is lots of shade and the garden is looking wonderful....please dress comfortably.

**See You There!**



# MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING

The April 2, 2017 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray Street in Activity Room 1. President Janet Carpenter called the meeting to order at 2:10 P.M.

Refreshments for this meeting were kindly provided by **Janet Carpenter, Kathleen Murphy, Midge Gorman and Cheryl Lenert.**

The minutes from the March meeting were in the Begonia Chatter and were approved as written.

Tom Keepin gave the Treasurers report stating that our checking account still has a healthy balance. Visitor Kay Hoss joined the Astros at this meeting.

Our Sunshine Chair, Ruby Lewellyn passed around cards for Anna Belle Hicks, Elaine Riquelmy and Bill Claybaugh.

**New Business:** Tom Keepin proposed cancelling the usual May meeting and having our Annual Spring Picnic at his home on May 21, 2017 instead. The menu will be pot luck. Tom asked that each person attending bring an unwrapped door prize. Tom also asked how many members were going to San Antonio to attend the combined Southwest Region Get-together and ABS National Convention. A few of our members will be attending.

The meeting was then turned over to Cheryl Lenert for the program which was on **How To Manage Overgrown Terrarium Plants.** Ruby Lewellyn brought in B. rajah, B. 'Kit Kat' and B. 'Peridot' and Tony & Donna brought in a variegated B. prismatarca for the demonstration. Cheryl showed how to "roll" the plant out of the container and gently remove it. She likes to replant into dry mixture and then add moisture. She added a very small amount of charcoal to the bottom of the container. Next, perlite may be added. Then the soil mix (a small amount) goes into the container. Cuttings are then just set on top of the soil mix and sprayed with water. Chopsticks or long tweezers can be used to move the soil around a bit. She explained that, if

exhibiting, the container should NOT have a plastic wrap on top and also not to use a top the judges can't see through.

Cheryl also cautioned that, when washing glass bowls, they should NEVER be picked up by the rim. It is best to "roll" them to dump the soapy water when washing.

Members were then able to purchase 4" begonias that Brenda Andrews had started and Johnny Williams had grown up to larger plants. There were five trays of these pretty begonias. The Raffle Drawings were then done and Midge Gorman won a large B. 'Dragon Wings' and B. 'Torch'. Midge Gorman, Cheryl Lenert, Janet Carpenter, and Kathleen Murphy were additional raffle winners.

The meeting was adjourned by President Janet Carpenter, at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Donna Williams, Secretary

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## WEATHER FORECAST FOR MAY 2017

According to the United States Weather Service, Houston and surrounding area fall in Region 7 of the National Weather Map. Here is what they predict our weather will be like for the month of May.

Our temperatures will be slightly below normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our temperature range should average 67 degrees in the North to 72 degrees in the South. Our coolest May temperatures will be May 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup>. Our warmest May temperatures will be May 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The greatest likelihood for scattered showers and thunderstorms are about May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be several severe storms. Isolated thunderstorms will occur at times, especially along the Gulf Coast.

## PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

### May

1 <sup>st</sup>	Cancer
10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pisces
24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus
28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer

### June

7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Taurus
24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer

- Planting and Transplanting are best done in Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces with Cancer being the best.
- Best Pruning for quick growth is first Taurus and then Capricorn.

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## PROPAGATING A NUN'S ORCHID (*Phaius tankervilleae*)

Few flowering stems send out roots and shoots, but this one does when given good growing conditions. When the flowers fade, cut the long stems into 6-8 inch lengths. Lay them flat across a shallow container of potting soil. Add more soil around the edges of the stems, but do not cover them completely. Keep the stems moist and in a shady location. In about a month, new plants with roots should begin forming along the stems. When the new nun's orchids grow several inches tall, they can be removed from the stems and potted in containers to grow into flowering size plants for next year.

*(This article was taken from the Florida Gardening Magazine March/April 2017 Issue Page 10 in the Ask The Experts section)*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kay C. Hoss  
1804 Stoney Brook #4  
Houston, Texas 77063  
Telephone: 832-277-1127  
E-mail: [batbite@hotmail.com](mailto:batbite@hotmail.com)

Sue Botts  
5327 Bordley Drive  
Houston, Texas 77050  
Telephone: 713-552-0172  
E-mail: [suebotts2@gmail.com](mailto:suebotts2@gmail.com)

Gloria Hunter  
13897 Fenley Road  
Conroe, Texas 77032  
Telephone: 936-321-4024  
E-mail: [gcabrera@consolidated.net](mailto:gcabrera@consolidated.net)

Please take a moment to add these new members to your membership roster

WELCOME!  
To the Astro Branch

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Birthday wishes go out to all our members born in this month of May.

Francis Bones	May 24 <sup>th</sup>
Janet Carpenter	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Marla Cork	May 17 <sup>th</sup>
Midge Gorman	May 8 <sup>th</sup>
Darlene Morris	May 27 <sup>th</sup>

“Life is a story you write as you go. Your story is uniquely you- interesting and inspiring and as it continues unfolding, may it always be deeply rewarding.”

## A Word with you: terete

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

I occasionally read begonia abstracts, mainly to see if I'm improving my Botanisppeak. Reading is much easier these days, but usually I find a term I don't know. Sure enough, I was reading <http://ejournal.sinica.edu.tw/bbas/content2004/3Bot453-10.html>, an abstract about *B. copidifolia*, and found terete, another unknown term. Digging into its definition and derivation I find it could be useful even outside Botanisppeak.

In the abovementioned journal abstract terete is another way to differentiate begonias and other plants. In this case *B. coptidifolia*, with its grooved petioles., resembles *B. pedatifida* which has terete petioles.

We looked at the meaning of petiole, which is the stalk that attaches the leaf to the rest of the plant. I looked at and touched a lot petioles both in my begonias, and also the rest of my plants to see if I could identify terete petioles, and I did. Terete in Botanisppeak describes something that is circular, columnar, a cross section of which is round. *Portulaca* leaves are terete. I compare that with garden mints and their square, ridged petioles.

/te-rete/ There are three 'e's. The first is schwa, the second one is a long e, and in effete or replete. Mr. Webster says it comes from the Latin *teres*, *teretis* meaning round, smooth. He says it's "cylindrical, or slightly tapering in form and circular in cross section; columnar, as some stems of plants." Neither Golding nor Tebbitt lists terete, but Thompson says "circular in cross section." Cassell's agrees, but adds "of the parts of the body, wells-turned, slender, graceful" and "figuratively, polished redefined, elegant." I'll bet there's a use for that in those conversations we may still have.

*(This article was taken from The Begonian Volume 83 July/August 2016 page 147)*

## A Word with you: karst

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

"...'discovered' in a flower shop." That line grabbed my attention. *B. kui* was the discovery, karst the vocabulary word. I had never seen karst before finding it in Randy Montes Kerr's article in the March/April issue of the *Begonian*, p. 69, so off to my dictionary. I'm branching out a bit from Botanisppeak with this one.

The article about *B. kui*, the newly identified species found in a flower shop in Taiwan, said it was native to the karsts of northern Vietnam, a hitchhiker in Vietnamese imports! So those odd things that sprout in an otherwise pristine potted plant could be a new species (or something invasive). I'm glad I saw karst as it explains a lot of otherworldly landscapes I've personally seen over the years, and other seen only in photographs. We drove through the Minerve, Herault region of France a few years ago and I remembered being dazzled by the landscape, but lacking knowledge, vocabulary, and Google, never found out what caused it. Now I know.

Karst landscapes are usually in limestone, Acidic rainwater seeping through corrodes, erodes, or dissolves the limestone on its way to subterranean drainage, leaving sinkholes and caves. Seawater creates strange shoreline shapes.

Karst derivation is unclear. My Webster doesn't even have it. But Internet sources indicate it comes from Latin or Indo-European roots. Is that general enough?

According to Wikipedia "mature karst landscapes, where more bedrock has been removed than remains, may result in karst towers, or haystack/egg box landscapes." Those are in the Google images if you search in "limestone karst region of N. Vietnam" or "tsingy Madagascar." *B. due* seems to have come from the Thai Nguyen Province, a more interior section of Vietnam with distinct karstified landscapes. What a bold move by our begonias.

*(This article was taken from The Begonian Volume 83 May/June 2016 page 96 & 97)*

ABS Show  
‘Begonias Our Mission’  
San Antonio, Texas  
May 3 -7, 2017



New Introduction  
B. ‘Harmony’s Dragon Fire’



New Introduction  
B. ‘Harmony’s Daccaerys’



B. ‘Silver Limbo’



Best of Show  
B. ‘Judy Cook’  
Sandy Justice, San Antonio.



B. ‘Shadow King Cool White’

# ASTRO'S APRIL 2017 Monthly Meeting



Begonias for sale (Started by Brenda Andrews and finished by Johnny Williams)



Kathleen Murphy with her purchases.



(L to R) Janet Carpenter, Gloria Hunter and Midge Gorman with their plant purchases.



Lucky Midge Gorman with her two begonias won in drawings. B. 'Torch & B. 'Dragon Wing'



(L to R) Janet Carpenter, Kathleen Murphy & Ruby Lewellyn listening to program.



Cheryl Lenert demonstrating

**DIRECTIONS TO**  
**4513 RANDWICK DRIVE**

**713-299-4120**

South East from HWY 290:

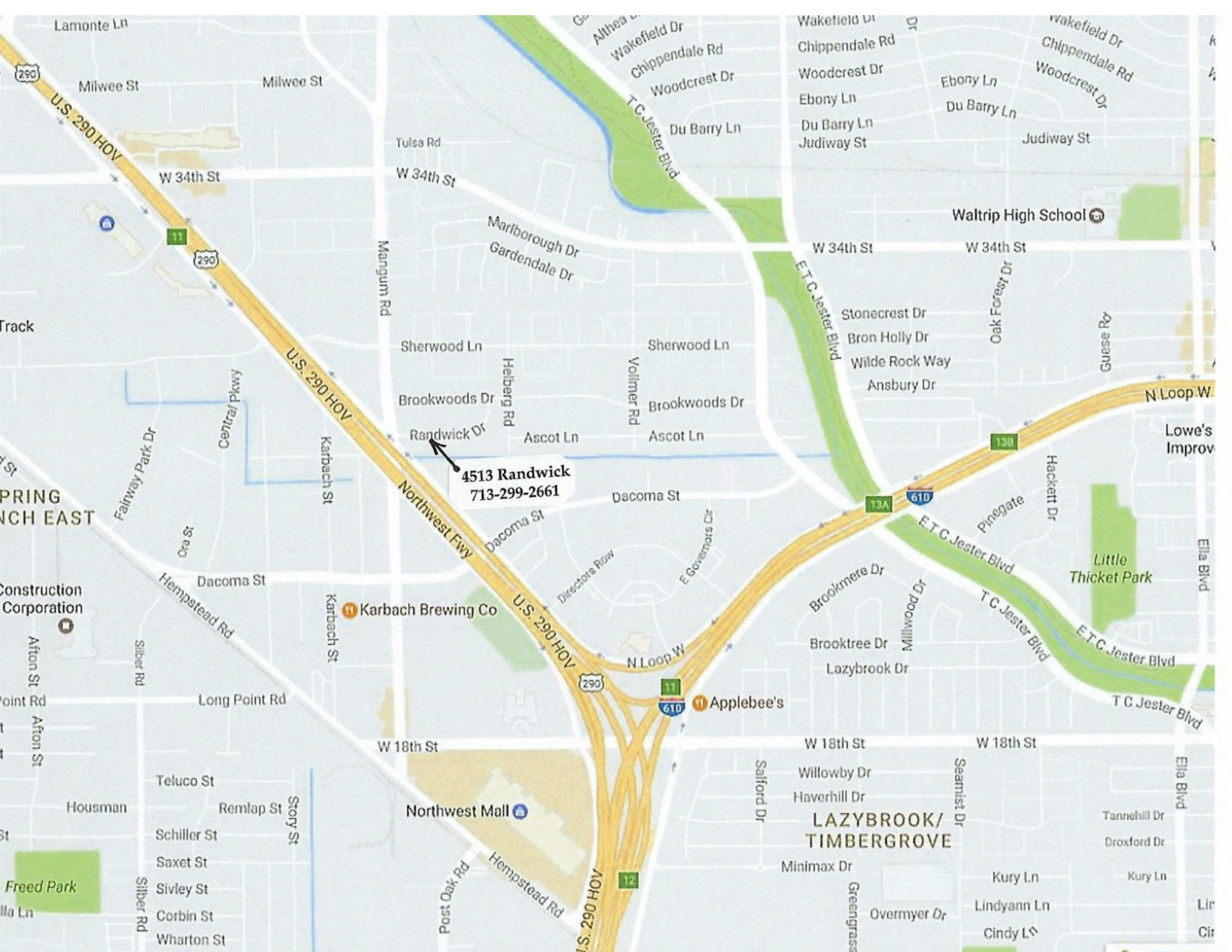
Take Exit to Mangum Road (almost at 610)  
Go to light (Mangum Rd.) and make a LEFT  
Go under 290 and very first street on the right is Randwick Drive.  
Take a RIGHT on Randwick Drive and 4513 will be the sixth house on the Right.

North on 610 Loop West:

Follow Loop 610 North over 1-10 and stay in the right lane to exit to HWY 290 AUSTIN.  
First Exit on over pass to 290 Austin is Mangum Rd.  
Exit and make a right at the light (Mangum Rd.)  
Immediately take your first RIGHT (Randwick Drive.)  
4513 Randwick Drive is your sixth house on the Right.

West on Loop 610 North:

Follow 610 North heading west towards Austin. Exit at T.C. Jester and go to second traffic light (West T. C. Jester) and make a right. Turn left at third street (Brookwoods Drive).  
Go to Randwick Drive on your left and make a left turn on Randwick Drive.  
4513 will be on the left.



4513 Randwick  
713-299-2661

Northwest Mall

Karbach Brewing Co

Applebee's

Waltrip High School

LAZYBROOK/  
TIMBERGROVE

Little  
Thicket Park