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NEIGHBORS

BY CHRISTINA MAYO
Special to the Miami Herald

What's that chirping outside your window? What was that flash of color you saw fly by on your early morning walk?

Now is the time to get out your camera and photograph the beautiful birds residing all around us in our South Florida paradise.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is accepting entries for its "Birds of South Florida" Photo Contest as part of the upcoming Bird Festival presented by Fairchild and the Tropical Audubon Society.

The contest is free and open to amateur photographers until Sept. 19. Submissions must be sent by the deadline with the registration form filled out and attached through email to [Vanessa Cook at vcook@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:Vanessa.Cook@fairchildgarden.org).

Expert judges will review the submissions and select the top 20 photos.

The panel also will choose the first-, second- and third-place award recipients, who will be announced before the keynote lecture at the Bird Festival on Oct. 4.

The Bird Festival will begin Oct. 2 with two off-site field trips and continue at Fairchild on Oct. 4-5.

The top 20 bird photos will be digitally displayed throughout the garden and on the Garden's Facebook page during the festival.

Festival activities include bird walks, plant sales and lectures by Dr. James A. Kushlan and keynote speakers James Currie and Dr. Cagan Sekercioğlu.

Birds of Fairchild, a new book written by Kushlan with photography by Kir-



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sten Hines, will be available for purchase at the festival. The book highlights many of the diverse

selection of birds found in the Garden.

To submit a photo, visit www.fairchildgarden.org/BirdFestival. There you will find the guidelines and photo contest registration form.

You can visit Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden at 10901 Old Cutler Rd. in Coral Gables.

For more information, call 305-667-4651 or visit www.fairchildgarden.org.

To see beautiful posted photos and more about events, follow Fairchild on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.

BUILDERS HONORED

The hard work of more than five generations of builders in the Murphy family has contributed to the success of Miami-based Coastal Construction Group, and now the company has been named the Southeast Contractor of the Year by Engineering News Record magazine.

Coastal was recognized in the publication's annual Top Contractor rankings as the largest general contractor in Florida and also as the largest residential builder in the Southeastern United States.

The company currently has more than \$2.5 billion in building contracts.

"It is a tremendous honor to be recognized as the Southeast Contractor of the Year by ENR editors,"

Coastal Chairman and CEO Tom Murphy Jr. said in a



PATRICK FARRELL/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

BUILDERS CAN BOAST: Tom Murphy, center, CEO of Miami-based Coastal Construction, poses with sons and executive vice presidents Sean, left, and Tom. Coastal was named Southeast Contractor of the Year by Engineering News Record magazine.

release. "This is a highlight in our company's history, and I speak on behalf of all of our employees that we are enormously proud of this recognition."

Coastal has built more than 50 hotels and resorts in Florida, including the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort & Residences, the SLS Hotel Miami Beach and numerous South Florida condominiums, office buildings and schools, including the Trump Royale in Sunny Isles Beach, 1450 Brickell in Miami, the Bacardi World Headquarters in Coral Gables and Carol City Senior High School in Miami Gardens.

The editors of Engineering News Record make

their selections based on merit and revenue. Coastal and the Murphy family were honored for "the company's commitment to quality and safety and its stringent prequalification process as the contractor's building blocks for success."

Coastal also was praised by the magazine for its fiscal discipline through the construction downturn in 2008 and afterward. The company has projects in

commercial, hospitality, single- and multi-family residential, educational, government-related facilities and disaster recovery.

Currently in the works is the Porsche Design Tower, which features a robotic car elevator system. Residents will be able to ride in their car and park it in their personal "sky garage."

Other notable new projects of the award-winning contractor are the \$450 million Sky Rise project on

Biscayne Bay, The Mansions at Acqualina and the Chateau Beach Residences in Sunny Isles Beach, the Oceana luxury residential community in Key Biscayne, the Bond luxury condominium project in Brickell, The Edition and Saxony Hotels in Miami Beach, and the new Surf Club condominium and Four Seasons Hotel & Resort in Surfside.

Coastal also recently placed 25th on the South Florida Business Journal's 2014 list of the 50 Fastest Growing Companies, and it earned the fifth spot on SFBJ's Top 10 list for the fastest-growing companies by dollar growth.

Coastal was named to the No. 1 spot on SFBJ's Top General Contractors list and No. 97 on Florida Trend's Top 225 Private Companies list.

The company has been involved in community service for more than 20 years through its Coastal Cares philanthropic branch.

The company actively supports more than 60 local, regional and national organizations such as Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services, Rebuilding Together and ACE Mentoring Program, according to its website.

If you have news for this column, please send it to [Christina Mayo at Christina.Mayo@miherald.com](mailto:Christina.Mayo@miherald.com) at least three weeks in advance.