



## DUGOUT 2004

In the year 2003 the youth welfare of Frielendorf (North Hesse, Germany) organized summer holiday games on the topic „Stone Age“ which were supported and advised by Archaeo-Technik. As the summer approached, I was visited several times by the very involved youth welfare worker Thomas Trieschmann, and I showed him pictures of the dugout tour 2001. Immediately the idea was born to build a dugout on our own with the children of Frielendorf and to later try it out on Lake Constance.



As a trained forestry engineer Thomas didn't have any problems finding a suitable tree in the nearby forests. Not far from Frielendorf he discovered a nicely grown poplar tree, which was put at our disposal by its owners, the Friemel family. Shortly before New

Year's Eve 2003 the tree could be cut down and was transported to the building yard in Frielendorf. With a diameter of 80 cm and a length of 10 m the trunk still weighed about 5 tons.

On January 5<sup>th</sup> 2004 we started working. After removing the bark I determined the rough position of the hull in the trunk, paying attention to irregularities in growth, bigger branches and so forth. And then the chainsaw started screaming and the axes began to rattle. First the later bottom is worked out, while the hull is lying upside down. Then the shaping of the bow and





stern sections follows, and when the rough outer form is done, the tree can be turned around.

For hollowing out, the trunk is sawn in at intervals of 10 cm at right angles to the longitudinal axis with a chain saw. Then you make an all-around cut along the later kerb, and now the wood lying in between can be chipped out. This way the tree was hollowed out to nearly final measures in just five days. The nearer you come to the bottom, the more carefully you have to work with the saw to avoid cutting a hole into the board.



The ten kids aged 11 to 18 years were working with great zeal and worked 8 hours a day all through the holiday week, which is most laudable. Besides several blisters and sore muscles fortunately there were no heavy injuries. Until summer concentrated work will continue because the dugout is to be christened on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004 on the Silbersee near Frielendorf. And this summer we intend to go for a trip on one of the Hessian rivers.