During my time as an artist in residence on Kent Island I worked on a self-designed education project that provides earth science and early biology materials for middle school science teachers and students. These are primarily aimed at grades seven through nine because these are typical curricula in the United States for this age group. The materials will be videos and articles centered around two central concepts: “Ecology”, featuring topics such as habitat and symbiotic relationships; and “Science Outside the Classroom”, featuring topics such as field stations and the scientific process.

Over the last two months, I have filmed and interviewed researchers as they developed and carried out their respective projects, while also gathering footage on the island’s natural processes, organisms and scenery. I also have been researching the various topics in regards to the publications produced on Kent Island and information relevant to its ecosystem. In addition, I plan on producing material that focuses on what Kent Island is and it’s value to Bowdoin and Bowdoin students.

I plan to spend the next semester sorting through footage and researching other educational materials, along with talking to local teachers and educators, so that I can produce resources that are valuable to Maine middle school students and teachers. Ideally these would be available through a website and easily accessible. Kent Island is one of those unique places where the lore of the island manifests itself in both the present community and the development of community over time. I asked each person I interviewed, “What kind of a place is Kent Island?” The responses were rich and varied, but a general consensus was that it was an extension of Bowdoin in which we were fortunate to take part.